



Assad, Mubarak discuss coordination

CAIRO (Agencies) — The leaders of Syria and Egypt, key players in U.S.-led Middle East peace efforts, met Saturday for policy coordination on the eve of a crucial regional tour by Secretary of State James Baker. The meeting came amid suggestions by Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for five-way high-level Arab coordination to prepare for a peace conference this month co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union. After more than four hours of talks, Mr. Mubarak escorted Mr. Assad to the airport to send him off. They did not speak to reporters. Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Assad spent two hours alone, and then called in Syrian Vice-President Abdul Hafiz Khaddam, Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shazly, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa and presidential advisor Osama Al Baz for a working lunch. The two presidents, who have consulted closely on the proposed peace conference, made no statement after the meeting. Officials were not immediately available for comment. Mr. Baker is due in Egypt on Sunday at the start of his eighth Middle East peace mission since the end of the Gulf war in February. He will go on to Jordan, Syria and Israel.

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King announces Jordan's decision to attend peace conference

Addressing national congress, King explains Jordan's position, regional and international situation and elements of the framework of peace parley

- We will participate in order to protect ourselves and to safeguard our country and our people ● Achieving peace is a national duty
- Peace concerns our present and future and has an impact on our continuity
- Sense of responsibility, courage, discipline, nationalism and awareness are needed to defeat negativism

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday announced Jordan's unequivocal decision to participate in the proposed peace conference on the Middle East saying Jordan's decision is not a departure from previous Jordanian and Arab policies and that attendance was necessary to protect the state and the interest of the Jordanian people.

"We will participate in order to protect ourselves and to safeguard our country and our people and to enable us to lead a normal life," King Hussein told the na-

tion in an address to the Jordanian National Congress, which was especially convened for the occasion.

In his wide-ranging speech, which tackled the fundamentals of Jordan's position and strategy vis-a-vis peace in the region and the realities that confront the Kingdom, the King also disclosed details of some assurances that the U.S. administration has provided to Jordan and the basis on which the proposed peace conference will be held.

The King described his address to the congress as "a frank and open discussion to ascertain current real-

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday addresses a Jordanian national congress (photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Reagans visit Morocco

RABAT (AP) — Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, arrived here Saturday for a five-day private visit. The Reagans began their trip in the capital of Rabat, where they will be King Hassan II's guests of honour at a dinner Sunday, the MAP news agency reported.

Thousands join anti-racism protest in Germany

BONN (R) — Thousands of demonstrators marched through several German cities Saturday to protest against a wave of neo-Nazi attacks on foreigners. Police said around 3,000 people attended the largest march in Saarbruecken. Smaller demonstrations were held in the states of Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein and North Rhine-Westphalia.

4 sentenced to hang, crucified in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — A court sentenced four highway robbers to be hanged, then their bodies crucified, under Sudan's strict Muslim law, the official news agency reported Saturday. The Sudan Arab News Agency (SUNA) said the four were convicted of "spreading corruption on earth" as well as armed robbery and firearms offences. The sentences passed in the western Sudan city of Al Fasher must be endorsed by Omar Hassan Al Bashir, head of the ruling military junta in Khartoum.

Algerian court rejects release of Islamists

ALGIERS (R) — An Algerian court ruled on Saturday that Islamic fundamentalist leaders, held by the military after arrest in June, must stay in detention. The Algerian news agency APS said the court at Blida, where Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) leaders are held, ruled against a defence request for their provisional release. APS said the court confirmed the order issued by the military examining judge.

Gandhi's widow says no to politics

NEW DELHI (R) — Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow of assassinated former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, has turned down an offer from his ruling Congress Party to enter politics. Indian news agencies reported on Saturday. They quoted Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao as saying the refusal of Sonia Gandhi, 44, was definitive. "No, repeat no," Mr. Rao quoted her as telling him during a meeting on Saturday morning to find out if she would run for parliament, where Congress forms a minority government.

PLO 'still awaiting U.S. assurances'

Both sides report progress made in Washington talks

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Saturday he was still waiting for assurances from Washington on the planned Middle East peace conference.

"We are still waiting for American clarification regarding points we have raised, notably the questions of Jerusalem, (Jewish) settlements, and Palestinian representation," he told reporters.

Senior PLO official Yasser Abed Rabbo said earlier Palestinian leaders who met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker this week did not obtain the assurances they wanted.

He said Washington had not given a "positive and adequate response" regarding a halt to the creation of Jewish settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories, nor on Palestinian representation at the proposed peace conference.

But Mr. Arafat hinted that Washington's attitude was not final.

"We are waiting for clarification, and we will study all that with the answers received from Soviet leaders," he said.

Mr. Baker embarks on Sunday

on his eighth trip to the region since the end of the Gulf war, which will take him to Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Israel.

Mr. Arafat was speaking after meeting the Soviet ambassador in Tunis who handed him the second message he has received from Moscow in three days.

"I have just received a message from Soviet leaders about the peace process and certain points raised by our delegation to Moscow," he said.

There has been a contact between (Soviet Foreign Minister Boris) Pankin and Mr. Baker and we have received answers to the questions raised by our delegation," he said.

Three members of the PLO's executive committee, including Mr. Abed Rabbo, met Soviet leaders in Moscow on Thursday and Friday.

Mr. Arafat did not reveal the contents of the Soviet message but Mr. Abed Rabbo said earlier the Soviet response had been positive.

The statements were issued without elaboration Friday after Secretary of State James Baker concluded his second meeting in two days with a Palestinian group.

The Palestinians' spokesman, Faisal Husseini, told reporters

there would be "some contacts" before Mr. Baker departed late Saturday to the Middle East.

Mr. Baker is hoping for a statement from the Palestinians, possibly in Amman, that they are prepared to join a delegation with Jordan and participate in the conference.

Mr. Husseini told reporters he was leaving Washington but did not say where he was going. He also indicated he is keeping in close touch with the PLO.

President George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev are due to issue invitations to the conference before the end of this month.

Following the Washington talks between U.S. officials and a group of Palestinians, both sides claimed progress, raising the possibility the Palestinians may be ready to agree to negotiate with Israel.

The statements were issued without elaboration Friday after Secretary of State James Baker concluded his second meeting in two days with a Palestinian group.

Mr. Baker has scheduled another meeting with a Palestinian delegation next Wednesday in Jerusalem.

(Continued on page 7)

Iraq urges an end to sanctions

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq urged the international community Saturday to press for an end to an economic siege imposed on Baghdad following the occupation of Kuwait 14 months ago.

"Free people throughout the world are urged to back Iraq against this ugly crime and demand lifting the unjust economic siege which contradicts the simplest human norms," said Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Kadher.

In a statement marking Iraq's "Children's Day," he added: "The international community is... called upon to resist the continuing unjust siege on Iraq threatening the lives of tens of thousands of children, old men and sick people."

He said Iraq was marking Children's Day while thousands of children were threatened with malnutrition, hunger and death because of sanctions "imposed on our country and people by the U.S., its Atlantic allies and the Zionists."

The U.N. embargo excludes food and medicines but Iraq is unable to buy them because its overseas assets are frozen.

Delegates to a Baghdad conference Saturday paid homage at an air raid shelter where 300 were killed in Gulf war bombing.

Security Council imposes toughest yet curbs on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council imposed the toughest controls on Iraq since the end of the Gulf war, preventing it from acquiring weapons of mass destruction again after its existing arsenals have been destroyed.

The 15-nation council Friday unanimously ordered U.N. inspectors to ensure Baghdad does not re-build nuclear, biological, chemical and ballistic missile stocks and sites being uncovered and scrapped by U.N. teams under a Gulf war ceasefire resolution.

The latest resolution holds out the threat of force to ensure compliance. Like other punitive resolutions adopted after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait 14 months ago, it invoked the enforcement provisions of Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter.

Iraqi U.N. Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari said it aimed "to place Iraq under the permanent trusteeship" of the U.N. special arms control commission, and to maintain existing sanctions against his country.

The commission's chairman should be a "political agent or high commissioner for Iraq, as in the old colonial days," he said.

If the plan were implemented against Iraq, other countries might also fall victim to what Mr.

Anbari called "a new occupation by remote control."

The drive to impose tighter monitoring on Baghdad gained new urgency this week when the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) disclosed that documents it seized in Baghdad show that Iraq was trying to develop thermonuclear weapons, or hydrogen bombs.

The Iraqis also had a much more extensive and advanced nuclear programme than previously suspected, according to the documents, which were seized by U.N. inspectors after a tense standoff with Iraqi soldiers.

The latest resolution holds out the threat of force to ensure compliance. Like other punitive resolutions adopted after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait 14 months ago, it invoked the enforcement provisions of Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter.

Under the Security Council's Gulf war ceasefire resolution adopted in April, Iraq must cooperate in the destruction of its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programmes, "super guns," and Scud-type missiles.

Iraq is obliged to eliminate its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons capability under the

Turkey sends troops into Iraq

CUKURCA, Turkey (Agencies)

— Turkey sent thousands of troops backed by combat planes and helicopters to crush rebel Kurds in northern Iraq Saturday, a military source said.

He said about 3,000 Turkish commandos, 200 civilian guards and special security teams had entered Iraq near the towns of Cukurca and Uludere. The action followed eight bombing sorties against Turkish Kurds bases in the PLO.

Mr. Husseini Thursday night referred to the PLO organisation as "the decision-maker."

"The meeting was a serious one and we made some progress," Mr. Husseini said Friday.

This was followed by a similar statement by a U.S. official, who told reporters they should not identify him.

"We agree with Faisal Husseini that some progress was made," the official said. "These were serious talks, and we stay in touch."

Mr. Baker has scheduled another meeting with a Palestinian delegation next Wednesday in Jerusalem.

(Continued on page 7)

Israel must compromise on occupied lands — Abu Jaber

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuter

AMMAN — Israel is out of step with world opinion in continuing to occupy Arab territories and has no choice but to withdraw, Jordan's new foreign minister said Saturday.

Kamel Abu Jaber, appointed 10 days ago in a cabinet reshuffle, also said Arabs had nothing to lose if Arab-Israeli peace talks due to start later this month failed.

"Israel must come into step with the rest of the world," Mr. Abu Jaber told Reuters and the international television news agency Viasnews.

He said as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, scheduled to arrive in Jordan Monday, was due to leave on his eighth tour of the region to finalise the talks.

Wide differences still remain between the Palestinians and Israel, which has shown no sign of softening its stand on Palestinian representation and its refusal to cede Arab territories it occupied during the 1967 Middle East war.

Israel rejects U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 urging it to withdraw from the occupied territories in return for peace guarantees with the Arabs.

Arabs refuse to accept the participation of Palestinians chosen by the PLO in the peace talks.

The two Security Council resolutions, the basis of the proposed talks, are accepted by the Arabs and the Palestinians as the foundation for any peace.

"Arabs will not lose from going to the conference," said Mr. Abu Jaber.

"If we manage to get back the occupied territories and Jerusalem, this will be welcomed by everyone."

"And if it fails, the international community will point out the Israelis as having obstructed peace."

He said the Palestinians had not decided whether to accept Amman's offer of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to attend the peace talks but hopefully they will do so in the next few days."

Jordanian officials said Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat would visit Jordan after Mr. Baker's talks.

They said Palestinians were delaying the issue as long as possible to secure further assurances from Washington on halting Israeli settlements and on Palestinian representation.

Accord signed for \$100m Shidiyeh fertiliser plant

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

the JPMC's southern Shidiyeh mines in an area designated as free zone, thus enabling the project to enjoy a package of incentives, including a 12-year tax holiday.

JPMC officials said the Ministry of Industry and Trade had granted the plant the status of a "national economic" project, thus offering it a series of additional advantages and incentives.

The entire 200,000-tonne annual production of phosphoric acid at the plant is expected to be purchased by the Indian government as well as various private sector Indian fertiliser industries at one or two per cent less than the international prices for the commodity.

The JPMC's share of SIPCO, which is reported as one of the most efficient chemical-related industries in India, said he expected the Shidiyeh plant to be operational in 24 to 27 months.

Work on the project, which will create 150 skilled and semi-skilled job opportunities for Jordanians, is expected to begin immediately.

India is the largest importer of Jordanian phosphates and related products. The volume of the Indian imports from the Kingdom is expected to be worth close to \$200 million this year.

Industry sources said efforts

(Continued on page 3)

Iran said planning to recall its guards deployed in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — Iran has decided to withdraw its Revolutionary Guards whose deployment nine years ago inspired Shiite Muslim fundamentalism in Lebanon, two prestigious publications reported Saturday.

If implemented, the decision would at a stroke strip guerrillas fighting Israel of their main logistical and training support and the groups holding Western hostages of their moral backing.

A Revolutionary Guard withdrawal would also increase pressure on the Jewish state to dismantle its self-proclaimed "security zone" in the south as the United States strives to organise a Middle East peace conference.

The newspaper Al Nahar, Lebanon's leading daily publication, said Tehran has officially notified Beirut of its decision to return home the revolutionary guards.

Al Nahar's unsourced report did not say when the withdrawal would begin, or provide other details.

However, the weekly al Shiraas magazine said the guards would leave "in the near future." It said they would move out in batches, and that only a "minimal number" would stay on to offer "social services" to the Shiite community.

Some 3,000 Revolutionary Guards were dispatched to Lebanon in 1982 to help fight the Israeli army which invaded the country in June of that year.

After the invasion, the guards stayed on and concentrated on spreading the teachings of their patriarch, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, among the Shiites.

In 1983, the guards formed Hizbullah (Party of God) and began training and arming young Shiites. Hizbullah has since grown into a sizeable group of 3,000 to 4,000 hardcore fighters.

It also is the umbrella for kidnap groups holding most of the Westerners missing in Lebanon — five Americans, a Briton, two Germans and an Italian.

Sudan rebels split, hindering relief effort

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Two factions of Sudan's rebel movement are battling each other for supremacy, complicating efforts to ship humanitarian aid to the drought-stricken country, according to a top U.N. official.

However, peace talks between the rebels and the Sudanese government are expected to open soon in Abuja, Nigeria, said James Jonah, the U.N. under-secretary-general in charge of relief efforts for the Horn of Africa.

"In October, the talks should start" under Nigerian mediation, Mr. Jonah said.

Mr. Jonah confirmed that the Sudanese rebel movement is divided as he issued an appeal for donor countries to give more for relief efforts in Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia.

The United Nations had appealed for \$400 million for aid for about 22 million people in the three countries for the remainder of 1991, but only \$110 million has been pledged so far, he said.

"Donor distraction" from other crises and emergencies around the world have contributed to the disappointingly low relief effort, Mr. Jonah said.

Confusing and contradictory reports have emerged from Sudan in recent weeks over whether some of the rebels in the Sudan People's Liberation Army

Hizbullah is leading a guerrilla warfare against the Israelis and their allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in the south. It has rejected government orders to surrender its weapons and disarm until the Israeli leave.

Israel publicly refuses to relinquish the buffer until it is sure of security arrangements that would protect its northern territory from cross-border attacks.

Al Shiraas gained fame in 1986 when it broke the story of the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran. It is known for close connections to the Iranian hierarchy.

Citing well-informed sources, the magazine said the issue of the guards was first raised by Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bweiri during his visit to Iran last month. Lebanese President Elias Hrawi then discussed the matter with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati while they were both in New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly.

More recently, Syrian Chief-of-Staff Hikmat Shehabi discussed the logistics of the withdrawal with Iranian officials in Tehran last week, Al Shiraas said.

Syria is the main power broker in Lebanon. It has 40,000 troops backing the government's efforts to restore stability to the country after 16 years of civil war.

Mr. Hrawi's government is trying hard to regain control over Lebanese soil, but Israel refuses to relinquish a border enclave on the grounds such a move would leave its northern territory open to cross-border attacks.

Al Shiraas noted that the number of Revolutionary Guards presently in Lebanon is not known, but that some estimates put it at 800.

However, Lebanese official figures earlier this year said 1,000-1,500 guards of the 3,000-strong contingent that came in 1982 were still in the country.

The guards are entrenched in Baalbek, an ancient Roman city in Eastern Lebanon. They have training camps and a hospital in the city.

Iraqi leader vows to fight U.S. again

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan has said that Arabs would again fight the United States and its regional allies, especially Saudi Arabia.

He also accused other Arab and Islamic countries of unjustly supporting the economic blockade of Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"The mother of all battles is not the last of Arab fights against the United States and its allies, slaves and agents in the region," the senior leader said in a speech to a congress of Arab journalists, the Iraqi news agency reported.

Mr. Ramadan said the United States would not have been able to attack with such ferocity "had not the traitor rulers of Saudi Arabia made the donations, and put the sacred lands of the Arabs at America's disposal to strike at Iraq, from land, sea and air."

The U.S.-led coalition forces were headquartered in Saudi Arabia, which donated \$13.5 billion to the cause and paid infrastructure and support costs for an estimated total of up to \$70 billion.

Mr. Ramadan said that Saudi Arabia paid the United States \$160 billion "for hitting Iraq."

Mr. Ramadan said it was the Arabs, and not the United States, who were really behind the economic blockade. He said the states in the region should vote to withdraw U.N. Security Council Resolution 687 which established the blockade because Iraq was no longer occupying Kuwait.

He said the last had not been heard from Iraq and its friends.

"America and its allies in the region will be surprised by the uprising that will be staged by the Arab masses against all the traitors and agents who betrayed Arab honour," he said.

INA, monitored in Cyprus, said the participants in the congress held a march through downtown Baghdad.

An Iraqi newspaper said Israeli reconnaissance flights over Iraq were part of U.S.-led aggression.

An editorial in the Babel daily said "what happened depended upon continued aggression led by the USA against Iraq."

"It (aggression) takes many forms, direct attacks, economic sanctions, sending inspection teams, some of whose members are chosen carefully by the CIA," it said.

This was a reference to David Kay, head of a U.N. nuclear inspection team held in a Baghdad car park for four days after refusing to surrender nuclear secrets it had seized.

The newspaper recalled that Israeli planes bombed Iraq's Tamuz nuclear reactor 10 years ago, and "the USA refused to punish Zionist aggression."

"It has refused until now to put the Zionist nuclear institutions and all biological and chemical weapons under international inspection."

"It has only shown its regret for this act (the overflight)," the editorial said, in reference to Washington's protest to Israel over the flights by Israeli F-15 warplanes across Iraqi territory last week.

The newspaper accused Turkey of using napalm in air attacks against Kurds in northern Iraq. Turkey said Friday it had attacked Turkish Kurdish guerrillas bases in Iraq in retaliation for Monday's killing by separatist rebels of 11 Turkish soldiers in the border region.

"The Israeli and Turkish aggression is part of the wide American plot against Iraq," Babel's editorial said.

He said the anti-Garang guerrillas were moving south, taking over towns.

PROGRAMME TWO

17.30 Les Badabous

17.45 A la decouverte de notre continent

18.15 L'école des fées

19.00 News in French

19.15 Carnet de notes

19.30 News in Hebrew

20.00 News in Arabic

20.30 Golden Girls

21.15 Murder She Wrote

22.00 News in English

22.30 The Orchid House

PRAYER TIMES

04.17 Fajr (Sunrise) Dhuha

05.34 Dhuha (Dhuha)

11.22 Dhuha

14.57 'Asr

17.19 Magrib

18.27 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieqlih Tel. 510740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The country will be under the effect of unstable weather conditions. The refece, it will be partly cloudy and scattered showers of rain are expected. Winds will be southeasterly moderate, freshening at times. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy and dusty and winds will be northerly fresh and sea choppy.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Hamed Mansour 748364

Dr. Abdal Order Al Lale 696048

Dr. Arafat Al Asħra 683989

Dr. Mohammad Shawkat 209878

Firqa pharmacy 601172

Ferlow's pharmacy 633521

Al Asmaa pharmacy 257053

Narouf pharmacy 633672

Al Salam pharmacy 636726

Yacoub pharmacy 636736

Shameedah ph. 633625

IREED: Dr. Ahmad Abu Baker (—)

REHAB

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De La Salle Church Tel. 661757

Orthodox Church Tel. 622365

Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628545.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772621.

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.

Al-Bayan International Church Tel. 665326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 511225.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, tel. 619322.

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691.

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieqlih Tel. 510740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590.

MIN./MAX. TEMP.

Amman 16 / 27

Aqaba 16 / 32

Damascus 22 / 30

Jordan Valley 17 / 33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 63 per cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 651111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 592228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 893930

Police Emergency Department 630321

First Pharmacy 609878

Price Commissioners 631176

Water and Sewage Complaints 697467

Amman Municipality Complaints 771111

Telephone Information Directory Assistance 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

IREED

Dr. Ahmad Abu Baker (—)

Israeli cabinet minister 'will quit when peace talks start'

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli cabinet minister said Saturday he would quit the government the moment Middle East peace talks began.

Energy Minister Yuval Neeman, who heads the small right-wing Tehiya Party, was asked by Israel's army radio how he could remain a member of the government if the talks involved indirect negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"That's why I will leave it (the government) the moment negotiations begin," he told army radio.

Mr. Neeman was one of three ministers who opposed Israel's conditional agreement to attend a peace conference, proposed and co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union.

He said he was hoping for a miracle that would derail the talks — "it's hard to predict what will be. Miracles can always happen."

Washington hopes to convene the conference by the end of this month.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, returning to the Middle East this weekend, met a Palestinian delegation from the Israeli occupied territories in Washington.

The three right-wing parties hold seven of the coalition's 66-54 seat majority in parliament.

Home News

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

AAU to hold meetings in Qatar

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian universities and those of the occupied Arab territories are to take part in the annual meeting of the Association of Arab Universities (AAU), which is due to open in Doha, Qatar, on Oct. 26. According to Dr. Awad Khleifat, who will head the Mute University delegation to the meetings, the annual parley will discuss a report by the AAU secretary general on the association's activities in the past six years and the participants will elect a new AAU secretary general for the coming four years.

Ministry workshop begins

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Higher Education Saturday opened a workshop on cultural, social and technical education adopted at community-colleges in Jordan. Participants will discuss new plans for these colleges in the current 1991-92 academic year.

Traveller completes 2nd stage of trip

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian round-the-world traveller, Ali Etoun, has finished the second stage of his travel and returned to Amman. Mr. Etoun, who is making the round the world trip on his bicycle, visited Syria, Turkey and Bulgaria during which he distributed pamphlets and photographs depicting historical, archaeological, cultural and economic sites in Jordan. Mr. Etoun said his trip aims at promoting Jordan's ties of friendship with the countries of the world.

Fund distributes JD 4,276,395

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) distributed JD 4,276,395 to 16,986 families in the first nine months of 1991. The fund's director, Fouzi Badran, said a total of 628 needy families received NAF lump sum grants and loans to start businesses to earn a living during the same period.

Spanish official due in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez is due here Monday on a two-day visit to Jordan. The minister, who is on a regional tour that will also take him to Syria and Iran, is expected to discuss matters of Spanish-Jordanian concern with local officials. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that matters related to the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East and the current initiatives for a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict will be reviewed. The question of bilateral ties, the agency said, is also on the agenda.

Health Department launching new programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Department in the northern Jordan Valley District is currently launching several programmes aimed at spreading health awareness among citizens, according to department Director Mustafa Salaymeh. He said the week-long programme, which is organised by the department on the occasion of the Arab Child Day, includes lectures at schools, charity societies and kindergartens on the importance of balanced nutrition and the hygienic environment needed for the children's safety. A similar programme has also started in the Madaba District.

Jordan to attend FAO meeting

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of the Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Middle East political, economic and social committee which will start in Damascus Oct. 13. The meetings will discuss three working papers dealing with providing services to farmers, analysing the quality of food products and estimating losses in strategic crops.

Courses to be held for preachers

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khastab met heads of ministry departments Saturday and emphasised the need for them to speed up work on various procedures related to public services. The minister told the meeting that plans have been drawn up to hold training courses for mosque preachers to raise their efficiency and performance.

Official hold talks with association

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Supply Secretary General Radi Ibrahim met Saturday with the board of directors of the Association of Bakeries Owners and a number of proprietors of flour mills in Jordan. They discussed questions related to the grinding of wheat and the distribution of flour to various bakeries in the Irbid region. Mr. Ibrahim said that the ministry will pursue the process of testing samples of flour from all mills to ensure that they comply with the required standards and specifications.

Jordanian delegation leaves for IMF talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation comprising Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh and Central Bank of Jordan Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabil left Amman for Bangkok Friday to take part in the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which was due to open Saturday evening. Informed sources told the Jordan Times that the Jordanian delegation to the meetings will hold bilateral talks with IMF officials on relations between Jordan and the IMF.

Accord signed on fertiliser plant

(Continued from page 1)
phates and loans from international agencies and banking institutions, including the Islamic Bank.

The JPMC is also involved in discussions with a Japanese consortium to set up a compound fertiliser plant in Jordan. The project is expected to be finalised before the end of the year.

U.N. imposes stringent curbs

(Continued from page 1)
It is barred from possessing a number of chemicals the U.N. lists as having little or no use except as chemical warfare agents. Another list of chemicals with dual military and civilian use will be regulated.

The resolution was adopted as U.N. teams were still learning about Iraq's existing weapons programme.

Since so much of Iraq's society is militarised and so many technologies have dual-use applications for civilian or military projects, the IAEA and special commission are working out guidelines that would let Baghdad use some technologies in the civilian sector.

Iraq would have to submit reports every six months on scientific and industrial projects that could have military applications.

Baghdad would also have to provide an inventory of all its nuclear installations and materials in 30 days; give details of all new and planned nuclear activities, and list all power plants producing more than 10 megawatts of electricity.



AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan left Amman Saturday for Morocco on a several day visit during which he will meet with King Hassan II and a number of senior Moroccan officials. The Crown Prince will take part in the second meeting by the Moroccan Academy for this year and will deliver an address at the opening session. Prince Hassan was seen off at the airport by His Majesty King Hussein, Her Majesty Queen Noor, Their Royal Highnesses Princes Mohammad, Abdallah and Faisal as well as other members of the Royal family. Also at the airport was Prime Minister Taher Maari and other officials and the Moroccan charge d'affaires in Jordan.

Islamic conference countries agree to offer aid to Palestinians, Lebanese

AMMAN (Petra) — An Islamic countries' meeting which ended in Istanbul last Wednesday has come out strongly in favour of providing continued support for the Palestinian people under occupation rule and to provide aid to Lebanon to help its reconstruction programme, according to Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Surour.

Delegates to the seventh standing committee on economic and trade cooperation among Islamic countries expressed their determination to pursue efforts to extend backing and assistance to the Palestinian people under Israeli rule, the minister said.

He said that support and help are needed to enhance the Palestinians' steadfastness and to enable them to pursue the struggle to fulfil their national aspirations. Such moves, the minister said, were designed to enable the

Lebanese to rebuild their country's economic institutions.

The Islamic conference decided that further aid will be granted from the Islamic World to enable Lebanon to restore electricity, and irrigation networks as well as health services and to refunction farming and transport systems.

According to Mr. Surour, the conference decided to offer Lebanese students seats to study in any of the universities found in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) states.

Mr. Surour added that the conference voiced support for studies related to deal with the impact of the creation of united Europe in the coming year on the Muslim World. He said the conference called for close cooperation among Islamic financial institutions within the OIC framework.

Minister: Courses designed to reinforce students' pride in Kingdom

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has put into practice new regulations concerning the teaching of military education and civics in government schools, offering courses in these streams to male and female students of the first secondary class.

Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat made a tour of the various schools within the greater Amman region, which started the courses for the first time in the past week.

Ministry of Education sources said that students who began taking these new courses as of Thursday number, 34,546 within the Amman Governorate.

The programme is designed to create balanced personalities among the students of Jordanian schools, providing them with ample background about the country, its history, leadership and policies, the minister had said earlier this month upon announcing the new measure.

Ministry of Education officials said that the students will be given lessons in Jordan's geography, history — with special focus on Jordan's relations with Palestine and its endeavours to confront aggression and Israeli



Eid Dahiyat

threats — and military training during a nine week period. The lessons, they said, would be given on Thursdays.

The officials said that the courses are now being given to male students but the same courses will be given to female students in the second term of the current scholastic year.

Minister Dahiyat was accompanied on his tour by commander of the People's Army and director of education.

The courses are being carried out in cooperation with the People's Army, the Civil Defence and the Public Security department as well as the University of Jordan.

Problems in training students in refrigeration and air conditioning processes reviewed

AMMAN (Petra) — A training seminar on air conditioning and refrigerating systems opened in Amman Saturday with the participation of delegates from eight Arab countries.

Organised by the Baghdad based Arab Federation for Technical Education, in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education, the training seminar will focus attention on equipment used in refrigeration and air conditioning processes, their operation and maintenance and practical training on them as well as visits to a number of Jordanian institutions.

The participants, all instructors in technical centres and institutes operated by community colleges in Arab states, will be oriented on modern skills and will be provided with information and data in promoting their performance in imparting technical training.

The opening session was addressed by Ministry of Higher Education Secretary General Ahmad Al Basheirah who underlined the importance of the seminar to promote industrial processes in the Arab World.

Federation Deputy Secretary General Dr. Ahmad Bashir outlined the federation's activities in promoting technical and vocational training but pointed out that such training is facing several constraints.

Several lectures will be delivered during the two week seminar, which is being attended by delegates from Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Sudan, Iraq and Qatar.

The participants, all instructors in technical centres and institutes operated by community colleges in Arab states, will be oriented on modern skills and will be provided with information and data in promoting their performance in imparting technical training.

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★ Art exhibition by Abdul Rauf Shammam, Khalid Jirres and Mohammad Hussein Abduh at Abdul Hameed Shammam Foundation Gallery (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)

★ Comprehensive book exhibition at Yarmouk University.

★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists Ismael Khayyat, Mohammad Abdulla, Khatib Mohammad, Ali Manshawi, Khalid Wahl and Himat Ali at Baladna Art Gallery (located at the beginning of Gareeb Street from Safeway).

Official calls for stricter monitoring of water supplies

AMMAN (J.T.) — While water pumped for domestic consumption is safe thanks to continued monitoring by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the country's water resources face five main sources of pollution, according to a ministry official.

Dr. Raja Jadoun, director of the ministry's Laboratories and Water Control Department, said that water pumped to homes is 96 per cent safe, a rate considered excellent and one that meets the standards of the most advanced nations.

Department teams and technicians maintain continuous monitoring of water resources in Jordan and carry out examination and inspection of water networks and main water towers to ensure safe drinking water for the public, Dr. Jadoun said.

At the same time, the department maintains monitoring over

the pollutants, their sources and the country's water resources, Dr. Jadoun added.

He said that five sources of pollution endanger the water resources in Jordan and these are: activities of the industrial sector, the presence of cesspools, techniques used in the treatment of waste water at various plants, dumping areas where the solid refuse from industries and homes is dumped as well as the extensive use of fertilisers in irrigated farm lands where a high degree of salinity exists in the soil.

Dr. Jadoun said problems like these should be dealt with at the national level and would need constant control and monitoring of underground and other water resources. They could also be addressed through the revision of methods used in the treatment of waste water and in the use of pesticides in farming.

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Cooperation, agreement on exchanges of information highlighted in fertiliser seminar

By Nur Seti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Advances in the international fertiliser industry and how producers and consumers with special relations can work together to take advantage of technological progress and each other's experience in the field were the focus of a five-day seminar held in Amman last week.

The seminar, the third of its kind to be organised in which Jordan played a prominent role, offered an opportunity for Jordanian and Indian experts in the fertiliser industry to exchange expertise and give each other the benefit of experience in the various aspects of mining, production and processing as well as the commercial elements of the trade.

Indian and Jordanian experts representing their respective country's fertiliser industry took part in the deliberations and in reviewing 15 working papers dealing with fertiliser production.

The Jordanian fertiliser industry was represented mostly by officials from the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and the Arab Potash Company (APC).

The Indian market imports more than 20 per cent of Jordan's total phosphate production.

Mr. Azar, also chairman of the Fertiliser Industry Coordination Committee, added that the Indian experts acquainted themselves with the types and nature of Jordanian raw materials used in the local fertiliser industry.

"The importance of this conference can be seen from the scientific and technical aspect," said Ibrahim Badran, secretary general of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Supply.

He added that Jordan and India have had close relations over the past few years.

Jordan, which possesses phosphate rock and potash — the main ingredients of fertilisers

— in addition to its strategic location, made it an obvious choice for India to secure a large portion of its requirements from Jordan, he said.

On the other hand, he said, many Indian companies of various sectors are helping Jordan's programmes.

Announcement from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation Water Authority of Jordan invitation for bids

Date: 12/10/1991
Loan No.: 3306 JD

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank and 4 grants from Canada, Luxembourg, Sweden and Switzerland in various currencies towards the cost of the Emergency Recovery Project (ERP) and it is intended that part of the proceeds will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of goods listed in the table below.
2. The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of items listed in the table below.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the tender documents at the office of the Tenders Division of the Water Authority, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 680100. Telex 22439 JO. Fax 679143.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address and against the payment of a non-refundable fee specified in the table below.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount listed in the table below, and must be delivered to the above office not later than 12:00 hours Jordan local time, as detailed in the table below.
6. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 12:00 hours on dates specified in the table below at the Head Office of Water Authority at the above address.

| Item No. | Contract No./Code | Description | Bid Bond Amount JD | Cost of Each Set of bid Documents JD | Opening Date |
|----------|-------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | 26/91/AW | Air Compressors and welding machines | 5,000 | 50 | 23/11/1991 |
| 2. | 27/91/BIT | Drilling and hammer bits | 11,000 | 100 | 23/11/1991 |
| 3. | 28/91/CAB | Cables | 9,000 | 100 | 23/11/1991 |
| 4. | 29/91/CAS | Casing & Screen | 12,500 | 100 | 23/11/1991 |
| 5. | 30/91/CEM | Drilling chemicals and additives | 3,500 | 50 | 23/11/1991 |
| 6. | 31/91/FT | Black steel fittings and galvanized steel fittings | 7,500 | 100 | 26/11/1991 |
| 7. | 32/91/HOE | Wheeled backhoes | 14,000 | 125 | 26/11/1991 |
| 8. | 33/91/GLV | Galvanized steel pipes | 30,000 | 150 | 26/11/1991 |
| 9. | 34/91/HP | Horizontal pumps | 18,000 | 125 | 26/11/1991 |
| 10. | 35/91/JET | Jet gulleys | 27,500 | 150 | 26/11/1991 |
| 11. | 36/91/LAB | Laboratory equipment | 6,500 | 100 | 30/11/1991 |
| 12. | 37/91/RP | Riser pipes | 18,500 | 125 | 30/11/1 |

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King shows the way

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's address to the nation yesterday was a bold, courageous message from a leader to his people at a crucial juncture of their history. It was a cry of conscience on behalf of peace — the dream that has eluded generations of Arabs — and a great statesman's plea for realism, reasonableness and progress. By announcing Jordan's acceptance of the peace conference's proposal, the King was not making an arbitrary decision to ram any peace formula down the throat of Jordanians or Palestinians. Rather, the option of peace for us, in the Monarch's words, is like a quest for a sober policy democratically determined on the foundation of rational national debate and balanced perspective.

Peace, as His Majesty said yesterday, would be a watershed between uncertainty and clarity, between evading responsibility and shouldering it, and between burying one's head in the sand and standing up to reality. In this sense, the quest for peace on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 would be a turning point not only for the Middle East region but also for the entire world.

For all those among us here and elsewhere in the region who harbour negativity and would rather profess pessimism and paralysing doubts, His Majesty's assuring words that Jordan and the rest of the Arab parties seeking a permanent and equitable peace and security do not stand alone against Israeli intransigence and last-ditch efforts to torpedo the painstakingly nurtured peace process must come as a reminder that peace will not be determined on the basis of strategic balance alone.

The entire international community is on the side of legitimacy and the recent pronouncements by the U.S. president on the foundations of peace in the area have given a vivid expression to this. This crescendo of international support for just peace in the Middle East would bear fruition, as the King indicated, just like it did in forcing a complete Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in spite of all earlier Israeli protestations to the contrary. There is therefore no reason to ignore the possible repetition of the Sinai success story when negotiations over the West Bank, Gaza and Golan Heights are undertaken in earnest.

The pivotal role for Jordan in the impending peace talks is determined by obvious geopolitical considerations as well as demographic links between Jordanians and Palestinians that have been intertwined for decades on end, the King said. Besides, Jordan has a stake in a regional peace and security. Without the resolution of the Palestinian case, the case for Jordan's well being and even continuity would hang in the balance. So Jordan's involvement in the peace process is not a luxury but rather a necessity determined by considerations that touch upon sheer survival and development.

Thus the people of Jordan are invited to reflect wisely and rationally on the King's efforts for regional peace and security and to decide accordingly. And they will. In the meanwhile the case for holding the peace conference is strong and persuasive. Jordan and the rest of the countries and peoples of the region are indeed at a crossroads. Waging peace calls for even greater courage than making war. Let us opt for the known rather than for the unknown.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday described His Majesty King Hussein's meeting with representatives of the various public sectors and his address tackling domestic and external issues as an embodiment of democracy. The paper emphasised the need for national unity behind the King who, it said, has led his people towards the shore of safety and has always served as a symbol for the people's continued endeavours for progress. It is quite natural for people under a democracy to have different views and to express them and indeed such phenomenon can only be interpreted as a healthy sign for the country, the paper stressed. It said that despite the different views and attitudes of different factions and sectors, one can only hope that democracy and national unity will come out victorious. The paper said that the King is keen to address his people and to let them in on the facts so that they realise the challenges the country is facing and the responsibilities its citizens should shoulder under difficult circumstances. Democracy, based on political pluralism and public freedoms, the paper continued, can only enhance the national unity which is the best guarantee for confronting the challenges facing the Kingdom. Backed by the will and determination of the people, said the paper, the leadership of this country can find no obstacles in moving ahead with courage and national commitment towards the achievement and fulfilment of national aspirations.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Saturday expressed support for a move on the part of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) which has issued a warning to the association members to abide by a set of rates in charging patients for their services. This warning, as the association has noted, followed repeated complaints that a number of specialists are violating the regulations and charging much higher rates, said Nazir. The writer said the public expects the JMA to take a further step and announce the names of those doctors or specialists manipulating the situation so that patients would know and then have the chance to decide and choose the doctors they want. The repeated complaints against this group of doctors prompted the JMA to issue this warning and to interfere and put an end to a malpractice, the writer added. He said that members of the public have indeed been worried about the high rates for treatment and were wondering whether the JMA would take proper action that would force this group to abide by the association's rates issued last April. The writer said that no patient, regardless of his financial situation, would like to see himself victim of greed and exploitation.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fadi Al Fanek

Adjustment with social safety nets

THE letter of intent which is about to be issued by the Jordanian government to implement an economic adjustment programme approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is still confidential. However, it seems that the economic adjustment programme which was agreed upon in principle will mean radical measures to fully liberalise the Jordanian economy aiming at reducing the imbalances in the central government budget and balance of payments.

The writer was always a firm supporter of economic liberalisation and adjustment at a proper time and in a gradual manner. Yet he cannot but express his worries in case measures will be implemented hastily, before taking the necessary precautions to safeguard against the negative side-effects which must occur when long-time practices are altered abruptly, and before public support to the programme is gained.

What I have in mind is the reported formula of immediate cancellation of food subsidies against raising the salaries in the public sector as of the beginning of 1992. We have always warned against the indulgence in the policy of subsidies because once you start offering a subsidy it becomes extremely difficult and

sometimes dangerous to withdraw. The withdrawal is unavoidable now or in the future.

The formula calling for removal of subsidies against increasing salaries, if true, is not an ideal solution. It is well recognised that the public sector salaries are low. Their purchasing power has deteriorated substantially because of inflation and higher cost of living. However, we know that at least 50,000 applicants are lined up for a governmental job at the Civil Service Bureau. The applicants are willing and eager to take governmental jobs with low salaries because the alternative is no job and no income at all. Therefore, it fair, under the circumstances to allocate the little money we have to improve the lot of those who were lucky enough to get the jobs, or should priority be given to those who remained jobless? In other words, should we help first those with low income or those with no income?

On the other hand, we find that almost half the Jordanian families draw their income, or part of it, in the form of public sector salaries. Those families are able, in theory, to use the increments in the salaries to pay for the increase in prices of

subsidised food. But what about the others, especially those who live in the countryside, in the eastern desert or in the refugee camps?

Increasing salaries is a socially desired objective, but not when the deficit in the budget is in excess of JD 350 million, being covered by foreign loans and donations which are not guaranteed to continue flowing in the future. Also, the removal of subsidies is right and necessary but not in one strike and indiscriminately.

In times of deep changes safety nets become badly needed in order to protect the weak groups of the population, at least for a transitional period, so that those who fall don't get their bones broken. Thus, food subsidies for poor families should continue, at least for some time.

Reportedly, around 25 per cent of the Jordanian families are below the poverty line. Therefore, the Jordanian society and government are under obligation to extend a safety net for the poor families as a social and political necessity which should be understood and appreciated even by the stone-hearted experts of the IMF.

Baker still faces mammoth task in Mideast peace talks

By Walter Patman
The Associated Press

DAMASCUS — If U.S. Secretary of State James Baker succeeds in the herculean task of finalising a Middle East peace conference, his work as peacemaker will have only just begun.

Both sides in the 43-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict — poles apart just over the proposal for talks — are sceptical that the conference will yield a lasting solution.

"To hold the peace conference is one thing. To reach peace is something else," said Abdul Mohsen Abu Maizar, a former member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Executive Committee.

But Richard Murphy, former assistant U.S. secretary of state for Near East Affairs, is more optimistic.

He said during a visit to Damascus Friday: "Nothing will come from the talks unless everyone goes in with the right approach — and that is something will come from the talks because that's better than what they have today."

Mr. Baker is expected in Damascus Tuesday and will visit Israel, Egypt and Jordan on his eighth shuttle since the Gulf war to try to eliminate remaining obstacles for the parley expected to be held at the end of October.

Diplomatic sources said matters to be decided include where the conference will be convened, whether further talks would be held at the same place — if the process goes that far — and even the wording of invitations.

Mr. Murphy said Mr. Baker's main mission is "to persuade the two parties who are the only ones who have not made a commitment to attend the talks — the Palestinians and the Israelis."

"But I can't imagine that the Palestinians are going to miss the boat, or that the Israelis, after 40 years of seeking these types of negotiations, are going to give up the chance of peace."

He said a major stumbling block is who will represent the world's five million Palestinians. The PLO have had little choice



but to back down from its insistence of fielding its own delegation and agree to a joint delegation with Jordan.

The front-line Arab states, including Lebanon, appear ready to attend despite protests against what they view as provocative Israeli actions, such as building new settlements in territories

occupied in 1967 and carrying out reconnaissance flights over Arab states.

Syrian President Hafez Assad's surprise agreement in July to go along with the U.S. initiative, reversing years of stonewalling, was a feather in Mr. Baker's cap.

But there are questions about what President Assad has in mind — whether Israel's most implacable enemy genuinely wants to talk peace or whether he only sought to embarrass the Israelis by backing the U.S. initiative.

Several diplomats in Damascus suspect Syria expects the talks to

Bush nominees hit political buzz saw that could cut president

By Laurence McQuillan
Reuter

"No. He has good nominations... they're outstanding candidates."

Mr. Fitzwater later complained that "it appears to us that the confirmation process has become a political process in many cases, too many cases."

"I think that's a serious matter, even the Congress is concerned about it," he said. "I don't believe they like the circus aspects of this any better than anybody else does."

The confirmation process pits the president, the nation's highest-elected Republican, against a Senate controlled by Democrats. The actions of both sides are cast against the backdrop of the November 1992 presidential election.

"It would decry the way that confirmation hearings generally in the last few years have been made into political campaigns," Mr. Fitzwater said on Wednesday, reflecting the administration's sensitivity to what has unfolded.

"I don't think that's helpful towards getting a better candidate or pursuing the facts of the case," he said.

If Mr. Bush's choices for key positions are found unfit by the Senate — and the general public comes to share that view it provides ammunition for challenging Mr. Bush's judgment.

Mr. Bush has been nagged with doubts about his ability to select the right individuals for important posts — beginning with his surprise choice in 1988 of Dan

Quayle to be his vice-presidential running mate.

Despite three years of administration efforts to establish Mr. Quayle's credentials, a solid majority of Americans still seriously doubt he could step in if Mr. Bush were incapacitated.

John Tower, the president's first choice to be his defence secretary, was rejected by the Senate — where he represented the state of Texas for much of his political career — amid questions about his womanising and drinking.

In addition, Mr. Bush's reappointment of Robert Clarke as comptroller of the currency is currently under fire in Congress for his alleged lax regulation of the nation's banks.

Mr. Clarke's is a relatively low-grade fight but rejection of either Mr. Thomas or Mr. Gates would likely dredge up new questions about Mr. Bush's ability to find the right person for the job.

Democrats, searching for Mr. Bush's vulnerabilities in the presidential nominating process for both parties begin next February, have been relying heavily on their congressional leaders to lash out until their own candidates — who now number five — can draw more attention.

"We cannot understand why President Bush is so eager and willing to help people in need overseas, but is so reluctant and unwilling to help Americans in need," Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell charged on Wednesday.

According to Minor Hirano, a political columnist for the Yomiuri newspaper, even former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita "is rumoured to hold Miyazawa in the same sort of awe."

Indeed, some analysts blame Mr. Miyazawa's aloofness from the wheeling and dealing of party politics for keeping him from the

Man pegged as next prime minister a sharp contrast to Kaifu

By Michael Hirsh
The Associated Press

prime minister's chair before.

"I am the son of a congressman and the grandson of another. I know the backstage, the kitchen, of politics. I was determined not to enter it — but was drawn into it reluctantly," he said in a 1977 magazine interview.

He was drawn in too deeply in 1989, when he was forced to resign as finance minister as one of those tainted by the recruit influence-buying scandal.

Mr. Miyazawa has served in most key cabinet posts and enjoys a reputation as an expert policymaker with a good grasp of economics.

Unlike the greener Kaifu, many of whose policy initiatives failed, he also benefits from numerous contacts in the bureaucracy, a requisite for any would-be mover and shaker in Japanese politics.

As finance minister in the late 1980s, Mr. Miyazawa favoured heavy public spending, tax cuts and lower interest rates.

In a proposal similar to one later adopted by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, he also called for Japan to make greater efforts to help debtor nations, saying the nation should be more "philanthropic-minded."

An avid supporter of the nation's three "non-nuclear principles" — neither possessing, manufacturing nor introducing nuclear arms — Mr. Miyazawa has said Japan should take more

initiative in promoting global nuclear arms reduction.

Mr. Miyazawa was born in Fukuyama near Hiroshima on Oct. 8, 1919. A member of a wealthy family and one of the privileged few to pass the diplomatic service examination, he entered the Finance Ministry in 1942 and served there through World War II.

During the American occupation, when U.S. forces wielded tremendous influence in Japanese affairs, Mr. Miyazawa worked for Hayato Ikeda, then finance minister under the government of Shigeru Yoshida.

He acted as secretary and interpreter in Washington talks between Mr. Ikeda and John Dulles, the secretary of state under President Dwight Eisenhower, in talks that led to the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty and the formation of Japan's self-defense forces.

Mr. Miyazawa later followed his mentor, Mr. Ikeda, into politics. And like Mr. Ikeda, who formed his own party faction and became prime minister in 1960, Mr. Miyazawa eventually came to head a faction, now the third largest.

Mr. Miyazawa's first cabinet post was director general of the Economic Planning Agency in 1962. He later served as minister of international trade and industry and foreign minister in the 1970s.

King: Peace conference could usher in a new era of hope, relief and progress

Following is His Majesty King Hussein's full address to a Jordanian national congress on Saturday

Brothers and sisters, members of the Jordanian National Congress, fellow citizens,

I greet you warmly and through you all I greet my dear people. I address you and all Jordanian citizens irrespective of your roots and political affiliations. I address you as members of one family sharing the same destiny.

You are probably wondering why we are meeting in this manner at this particular time. Simply and honestly, it is my duty as a leader to engage you in a frank and open discussion to ascertain current realities and their ramifications, to predict possible consequences and to seek a consensus amongst us. This should unite us toward a common and meaningful objective, for what is at stake is the destiny of our country and the security and future of our nation.

Modern Jordan was founded to protect this land and its people. Throughout the years the region has witnessed certain developments which placed Jordan on the longest borders and in a sacred position, making it the avant-garde of its Arab nation. Recently, events have accelerated in a manner that have overtaken our national agenda which was based on formulating a National Charter, and which has been accomplished. The next phase was to translate the principles of this National Charter into reality and in the form of political pluralism and political parties, whose pan-Arab and universal outlook emanate from the Jordanian homeland and its message, functioning in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution and the principles of the National Charter. Pursuant to that, general parliamentary elections based on political pluralism were to be held.

Were it not for those events which took us by surprise, we would have carried out our national agenda as scheduled, and there would have been no need to hold this meeting to brief, through you, our people about an issue that will constitute, as I expect, a watershed between uncertainty and clarity of vision, between evading responsibility and shouldering it, and between burying one's head in the sand and standing up to reality by confronting challenges with courage, determination and faith.

Thus, I believe it is my duty to speak to you at this critical juncture and at a decisive turning point upon which our whole existence, progress and regional and international relations depend.

That turning point is the Peace Conference on the Middle East and the fruits it might yield should it succeed, in the form of a new reality that would put an end to the state of fragmentation, uncertainty and waste of time, and usher in a new era of hope, relief and progress. This is the true meaning of a just and lasting peace which we have been striving and will continue to strive to achieve. I believe it does not surprise you that I speak about peace, or about our earnest efforts to attain peace, to preach its preeminence within our hopes, to emphasize its importance for us to continue our progress and pursue our march as a state. Peace is essential to us in leading a normal life which is the legitimate right of every individual, in order to dream, plan for oneself, and for the future of one's family, to raise one's standard of living away from fear, worry and confusion. It is also the legitimate right of each nation in order to develop and progress free from threat and preventing the exhaustion of the country's capabilities and resources. We have been discussing the peace issue for a long time. We have made it a symbol for a better life for future generations. In the light of the developments of the Palestinian problem with all the pain, complications and sacrifices that entailed to our steadfast homeland, peace has become a national objective that we have striven to attain, and a political strategic foundation upon which to proceed.

On this basis, we have played a central role at both the Arab and international levels. For over a quarter of a century we were amongst the first to initiate efforts and contribute toward resolving the Palestinian problem and the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Consequently we have, since 1967, responded positively to every peace initiative based on international legitimacy. We welcomed President Bush's speech to the United States Congress on the 6th of March in which he declared his determination to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and to resolve the Palestinian problem on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace, as well as the restoration of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people and guaranteeing security to all countries of the region.

In fact, we have consistently reaffirmed in every political statement we made our adherence to a just and comprehensive peace and the need to implement United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for any peaceful settlement of this conflict. Even when we and the whole world were preoccupied with the Gulf crisis, the cause of peace never escaped our attention. We expressed this through our insistence that the international community should deal with Israel's occupation of Arab land with the same measures with which it dealt with Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. We called earnestly for the linking between resolving both conflicts on the same basis of international legitimacy. As a result of many considerations and serious international changes, the time has now come when a serious attempt to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and to establish peace is being made through the convening of a Conference. What is our position? What are we to do?

One might ask: why should we go to the Peace Conference while the Israeli leadership constantly insists

that it will not give up one inch of the occupied territories? The answer to this is: our cause is not only between us and Israel but also between the world and Israel. It is between the supremacy of international law in strengthening world peace and the flouting of it. The whole world rejects what Israel's leadership is saying because it contravenes international legitimacy. Indeed, a relatively growing segment of Israelis are not too far from this world view. The Israeli leadership has in the past adopted this view regarding the settlements in the Sinai, when it kept insisting on not dismantling those settlements. However, the Israeli Government then had to change its position as a result of the negotiations and international pressure it found itself under to reach peace with Egypt which had adhered to the principle of international legitimacy.

Besides, let us assume that Israel will adopt a rigid position in the negotiations with the purpose of preserving the status quo to its advantage. This will make it clear to the world that Israel is the enemy of peace and stability in the region contrary to what it has been claiming, because it is clear that the basis for resolving the conflict should be international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace. In this case, Israel will stand to lose more than us. In fact our losses will be far greater if we do not participate than if we do and fail in the negotiations.

Because just peace would touch every aspect of our lives, it necessitates our serious response to every serious attempt to achieve it. Hence, to make efforts trying to achieve it is a national duty. To run away from it is letting our nation down irrespective of any cosmetic justification.

Also one might say: since only a small patch of Jordanian territory is occupied by Israel what is in the Conference for us?

The answer to this is: since when can we separate Jordan's future from the reality and future of the Palestinian problem? And since when is diplomacy conducted without any consideration of geographic proximity and demographic links? Didn't our political history and our socio-economic conditions take shape as a consequence of the Palestinian problem and how it developed? Didn't Jordan receive three huge waves of displaced Palestinians until now? Didn't this cause an imbalance in the equation of resources and people which in turn led to the current socio-economic hardships we now face? Nevertheless, Jordanians should be proud that had their country not been established on this land, nothing would have been left to discuss now. And that had it not been for their sacrifices and struggle throughout the course of the Palestinian problem there would not have been a West Bank left for us to retrieve for its rightful owners on the basis of Security Council resolutions; that had it not been for the unity of Jordan and the West Bank, that included Arab Jerusalem which we saved in 1948, we would not have the cause of Jerusalem, especially since all other Arab states stood with the rest of the world in favour of the internationalization of the Holy City except for Pakistan, and Britain who was bound to Jordan by a treaty. Jordanians, irrespective of their roots, should be proud that, together, they have withstood the consequences of the tragedy which fell upon Palestine and its people.

The answer is also: the Conference is a Peace Conference. In other words, the retrieving of territory would be one and not all of its consequences. For there is also the issue of regional security and peace between the countries of the region as well as the issue of the environment, water and economic development. These issues require cooperation and collective agreements. Jordan, which is at the centre of the East Mediterranean region, cannot disassociate itself from the efforts aimed at resolving those issues and not be a part in the agreements that could be reached. These issues concern Jordan, its future and its regional role. I doubt that any of our people would expect us to be so naive as to choose to isolate ourselves, be forgotten and whither away. I am sure that you are aware that this particular phase of the world's history is one of interdependence between peoples and nations. Thus, we must be involved in the drive for peace because it concerns our present and future and has an impact on our continuity. Otherwise the outcome, God forbid, will be ominous dangers.

Brothers and sisters, members of the Jordanian National Congress,

God said in His Holy Book:

"For the covenants of security and safeguard enjoyed by the Quraysh, their covenants covering journeys by winter and summer, let them adore the Lord of this House, who provides them with food against hunger, and with security against fear of danger."

An introspective reading of this divine Sura reveals that God in His wisdom has defined for any caretaker his responsibilities toward his followers, for all times and places, in two essential ways: that of providing them with food against hunger, and securing them against fear of danger. Certainly the contemporary interpretation of preventing hunger cannot mean the opening of poor houses or the distribution of free meals. Indeed, it means the creation of job opportunities through utilizing the state's resources, educating and training its citizens to participate in developing all sectors of society. As far as securing them against fear of danger is concerned, it also has many definitions, ranging from the respect and protection of human rights and freedoms, to insuring material and social security for the individual citizen, and protecting the state's stability and security. This is the leadership's foremost responsibility. In all honesty, I tell

you that it has become increasingly difficult to shoulder these responsibilities under the current conditions. Indeed, it has become a great challenge to do so, a challenge which is obvious to all those who are aware of Jordan's difficult financial, economic and social conditions. Jordan is practically under siege; Jordan has limited resources; Jordan has one of the highest population growth rates; in short, Jordan has both unemployment and hunger.

On the other hand, Jordan is a country whose people have pride and dignity and are imbued with perseverance, determination and loyalty. Our participation in the Peace Conference is not, therefore, aimed at achieving peace in its narrow sense or at any price. We will participate out of a sense of duty to ensure, in the first place, security and prosperity for our people, and out of our determination to adhere to international legitimacy. We will participate to restore our rights, honouring our loyalty to our Jerusalem and our commitment to stand beside the Palestinian people and to help them put an end to their tragedy by regaining their sovereignty on their soil; to support them to obtain their legitimate rights so that they can live like other people, secure in their homeland seeking their prosperity.

Peace which results from negotiations is permanent because it is the outcome of mutual understanding and accommodation between the parties to the conflict, but without sacrificing rights or deviating from the principle of international legitimacy. For peace to be permanent it must be balanced and not governed by a disparity between the materially strong and weak. It must be founded on the basis of right and justice and the common good of those who conclude it. This will ensure that future generations will reap its benefits and will, therefore, protect it. Hence, the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations cannot be forfeited or ignored. It is the genesis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 which applies to Arab Jerusalem as well as the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Golan Heights. This Resolution means the complete withdrawal of all Israeli forces from the Arab occupied territories including Arab Jerusalem, exactly as was understood in the Egyptian peace treaty when Israel withdrew from the Sinai which it occupied as a result of the same war. This also means that the settlements are illegal and that to continue with this policy is rendering the principle of land for peace void of its content. This policy would then constitute an obstacle to the peace process which must be removed.

Brothers and sisters,

Today we face the challenge of a just peace. It is a serious challenge which puts us at a crossroad where illusions conflict with the truth, fantasy with reality, complacency with the urge to act, the proclivity to accuse, outbid and slander with the spirit of responsibility, discouragement with encouragement, selfishness with altruism, and comfort in the familiar with exploring the horizon of the unfamiliar.

Nevertheless, as night follows day, I am confident that our people, and each and every one of you, are capable of defeating all the elements of negativism, illusion and frustrations. This can only be accomplished by:

First: A sharpened sense of responsibility at all levels. My address to you today is but an expression of this sense of responsibility toward each and every one of you and our people, be they in their cities, villages or camps. It is my responsibility toward our country and its strength, its existence and future and my responsibility toward ensuring security and prosperity for its people. Comprehensive and just peace is the key to transforming our conditions toward a brighter future we all seek.

Undoubtedly, you share in this sense of responsibility irrespective of your positions and roots because this is an extension of your responsibilities toward yourselves, your children and families, your fellow citizens, and our Palestinian brethren. It also relates to your concern to preserve a safe and prosperous homeland. I do not believe that our sense of national responsibility has ever been tested as it is now. This test lies in the degree of support we will give to our Jordanian negotiating team by standing behind it and with all our capabilities. I hereby announce that I personally, bound by the sense of duty incumbent upon me toward all of you, will employ all my energy to support our delegation in its noble national task. I am confident that our people, who have been frequently tested and have proved their worthiness and loyalty, will prove again that they are capable of withstanding this test by giving their full support to our delegation with pride and dignity.

Secondly: Courage. Peace demands no less courage than war. It is the courage to meet the adversary, his attitudes and arguments, the courage to face hardships, the courage to bury senseless illusions, the courage to surmount impending obstacles, the courage to engage in a dialogue to tear down the walls of fear and suspicion. It is the courage to face reality. I do not doubt that our Jordanian people who are familiar with hardships and who have been raised with moral and physical courage, armed with righteousness and faith, are well qualified and confident in their ability to meet the challenge of peace and to realize it so that all the children of Abraham will reap its fruits.

Thirdly: Discipline and organization. The challenge we face is enormous and complicated. It may last for many years to come. Thus, we should not expect

(Continued on page 6)

Realities demand participation in peace conference

(Continued from page 5)

speedy results and an already made solution. The process of peace will be difficult and tedious. This necessitates that we should mobilize all of our national energies and provide the right atmosphere, in a manner that helps us to meet this challenge and ensure our success. Good organization requires that we select properly the working committees which will conduct the negotiations in a manner that will facilitate the achievement of our objectives of a just peace. Discipline also demands, besides providing the proper conditions, the enlistment of all, in solidarity and awareness, to stand behind and support the effort of our Government in its national undertaking.

Foremost amongst the duties in this respect is the need for an efficient media characterized by reason, awareness and knowledge as opposed to emotions and sensationalism, which could only lead to more illusion and further deterioration. There is no need for a media which repeats verbatim statements by the enemies of peace designed to provoke, discredit and instill despair in the viability of the efforts to achieve peace. What is required is a media which upholds the interests of the people and state, not a media interested in exploiting the feelings of people and harm and ruin their interests.

Fourthly: Nationalism. By this, I mean genuine nationalism which begins with the full appreciation of the conditions of the state, its assets and liabilities, and not from fantasies or wishful thinking that cannot be exchanged anywhere. I also mean by it, the initiation of ideas and decisions based on the interest of the country and not to pursue the realization of selfish or parochial interests. I also mean by nationalism the ability to ascertain what is possible in order to achieve it and not miss it. Above all, can anyone pretend that he is more of a nationalist than those who cling to their land and its soil as is the case with our brethren, the Palestinians, in their occupied homeland? True nationalism does not give the right to some to deny it to others because no one can claim a monopoly on it. Nationalism does not mean that we can mislead, discredit or unjustly undermine the Security institutions which must remain apolitical to enable them to be the shield for the country in facing any threat to the State. True nationalism should not exploit democracy to spread confusion or feed divisiveness. True nationalism aims at safeguarding the country, its people, its soil and its institutions.

Fifthly: Awareness and Knowledge. These constitute the basic premises of achieving peace. I have no doubt that we, who have experienced the Palestinian problem in all its dimensions, must be fully aware of all its developments and ramifications. We must also be aware of the effects of both the regional and global balance of powers as well as the impact of the dramatic changes on it and world events.

However, it would be useful to survey the most significant facts, events and developments, the effects of which have led to the crossroad at which we stand today, as well as a number of important aspects on the basis of which the Peace Conference would be convened.

As for the facts, events and developments:

First, let me remind you of a fact I previously made reference to, namely that no observer closely scrutinizing the graph line of the Palestinian issue can fail to notice its steady decline. To be sure, what could have been achieved out of any peace opportunity has always proved to be less than that offered by the previous one. This, indeed, has been the trend since the thirties despite the justice of the issue. If there is any significance to this it can only mean that our grasp, as Arabs and Palestinians, of the regional and international situation at every peace opportunity had always fallen short of what was required. Indeed, we have failed to deal with the events within the framework of what is possible and reasonable and have, consequently, lost one opportunity after another. This led to a situation whereby 65% of the West Bank territories have been confiscated by Israel, and where the plight of the Palestinian people today is one best described as dispersion and uncertainty in the Diaspora and increased suffering and hardship in the occupied territories.

Secondly, the present Israeli leadership feels itself to be the only beneficiary from the continuation of the status quo, i.e. the state of no-war no-peace -- a situation Israel is exploiting to bring about changes on the ground.

There are three facts that encourage Israel to cling to this status quo, facts which we are familiar with and concerned about on a daily basis:

1. The continuous flow of Soviet Jews into Israel by the tens of thousands.
2. The establishment of new settlements.
3. Raising funds from outside sources in order to absorb these immigrants.

Such facts, as plainly evident, are of a dynamic nature and not simply transient. Only a just peace based on international legitimacy can put an end to this ever growing evil leading to the seizure of territories and to the dispersion of the Palestinians by uprooting and expelling them.

Thirdly, the collapse of communism and its alliance and the consequent breakdown of the international balance of power, led not only to the end of the Cold War and a World Order based essentially on bi-polarity, but also to a peace-oriented world, nuclear disarmament, reduction in armed forces, elimination of weapons of mass destruction, the settlement of all regional conflicts, and the protection of the world environment.

Regarding the effect of this state of affairs on the Middle East, the Soviet Union has shifted from the position of a rival to that of a partner of the United States in the proposed peace process. This shift was effected by a shared concept of the two super powers of

a new World Order succeeding the Cold War era. At the same time, the Soviet Union has ceased to be a source of threat to Western, and particularly American, interests in the region -- a fact that has deprived Israel of its most significant asset, namely, being the United States strategic ally in confronting the Soviet Union.

Fourthly: the collapse of the Arab Order, the disequilibrium in the Middle East balance of power, the new alliances, and the drifting exclusively toward the nation-state concerns as a consequence of the Gulf crisis. This has left an immediate impact on the Arab outlook regarding the Palestinian issue, as well as on the security considerations of each Arab country.

Fifthly: Jordanians and Palestinians are besieged and they are the parties directly and adversely effected by the continuation of the status quo of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Sixthly: The increased American interest in post-Gulf-War stability in the Middle East -- a stability based on the settlement of conflicts and the treatment of their root causes, and not one merely based on the containment and management of crises as has been the case until quite recently. This development, within the context of establishing and consolidating stability, emanated from two factors:

I. The end of the Cold War period and the beginning of a new phase in which all indications show that competition will essentially be economic and scientific but not military as was the case in the past.

II. The consequences of the Gulf War and the emphasis it laid on the need to provide stability not only in the oil states but in the neighbouring ones too. The roots of the conflicts in these neighbouring countries are diverse: some are political, some economic, others racial and sectarian. In any event, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue is the most predominant.

All these events and developments, and the regional and international relations they have entailed, subsequently brought about one essential outcome, namely the renewal of efforts in an attempt to arrive at a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, hence the U.S./Soviet initiative to convene a Middle East peace conference. Thus, the Arabs and the rest of the world meet in their mutual desire and interests to find a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Before discussing this convergence, its elements and its potential, let me outline to you the development of the Arab stance vis-a-vis peace with Israel in terms of the sequence of events that commenced on November, 1967, when two Arab states, of those that had engaged in war with Israel, accepted United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 calling for peace on the basis of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. The two states were Jordan and Egypt. Following the October 1973 war United Nations Security Council Resolution 338 was adopted. One of the paragraphs of this resolution provided for measures pertaining to the implementation of Resolution 242 -- a provision that was accepted by Syria, thereby joining Jordan and Egypt. In 1979 Egypt concluded a peace treaty with Israel. At the Fez Summit Conference in 1982, Arab leaders, including the PLO, unanimously agreed to accept a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and to resolve the Palestinian issue. In 1988, the 19th session of the Palestinian National Council declared a Palestinian peace initiative based on the existence of two states on the territories of Palestine - one Israeli and one Palestinian. The PLO accepted United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

At this juncture, I would like to emphasize an important issue relating to Resolution 242. Deliberations preceding the adoption of the resolution were based on the principle of land for peace. Jordan participated in these deliberations with the super powers, particularly the United States of America, as it also did in formulating the resolution based on that principle. Later on the issue of redrawing the armistice lines was raised. Among the significant features of this issue was the manner in which these lines came to divide some villages, and even houses. We accepted the concept of effecting minor changes in the final borders on reciprocal bases, in order to reach a just solution to this problem.

The Arab states have unanimously called for peace and have accepted the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue by peaceful means. The evolution of this position was gradual, beginning with the acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 by both Jordan and Egypt, and ending with the 1988 Palestinian peace initiative, which gained Arab and international support, and was followed by an official dialogue between the United States of America and the PLO in Tunisia.

During this period initiatives and international efforts for peace continued. Indeed, we are dealing nowadays with another peace initiative. We may ask what is new now? What is new now is that certain realities have emerged:

First: The seriousness of the present American Administration in its efforts to reach a peaceful settlement. This was manifested in President Bush's address to Congress on March 6th; in the dictates of the interests of America and the industrialized countries in the Middle East; in the seven visits made by Secretary of State James Baker to the countries in the area within the last six months; in the contents of Mr. Baker's talks with the parties concerned and the letters of assurances received from him; and in the recent attitude taken by the American President regarding the loan guarantees requested by Israel for the purpose of absorbing Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

Second: The transformation of the relationship between the Soviet Union and the United States from one of antagonistic competition, where each was bent on foiling the other's peace endeavours, into that of cooperation and partnership to bring about peace.

These two facts have contributed to a convergence of views between the Arab side and the influential international parties for the resumption of a peace endeavour that is more serious than any other previous ones.

You are undoubtedly aware of the elements that constitute the framework for the Peace Conference, since the media has reported on the discussions between the United States Secretary of State with every party he visited in the region.

Nevertheless, I deem it useful to survey a number of important elements that compose the general framework of the Peace Conference.

First: Peace negotiations will take place on two tracks. The first is Palestinian-Israeli. The second is Arab-Israeli, through bilateral committees. There will be a Syrian-Israeli Committee; a Lebanese-Israeli Committee; a Joint Jordanian/Palestinian-Israeli Committee.

I would like now to reaffirm the Jordanian positions regarding Palestinian participation. Jordan, which had taken the disengagement decision in 1988, prefers Palestinian participation to take place on the basis of an independent Palestinian Committee, i.e. an independent Palestinian Delegation to attend the Conference. However, Jordan has no objection to providing an umbrella for the Palestinian delegation under which they can attend the Conference through a joint Jordanian/Palestinian Delegation, if this would help in the convening of the Conference, and if the Palestinian leadership accepts this procedure.

Secondly: regional issues of common interest to all the countries in the region will be discussed in a third committee - a committee in which other countries, including those of the Gulf Cooperation Council would participate. Among such regional issues are: resolving water and environmental problems, reductions of weapons of mass destruction, and effecting social and economic balance among the peoples of the area through joint development programmes.

Thirdly: United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 shall form the basis on which the Conference will convene and the basis on which negotiations will be conducted. The Conference will convene under the auspices of the United States of America and the Soviet Union, and will include a representative of the Presidency of the European Community as well as a representative of the United Nations Secretary General. The United States and the Soviet Union will inform the United Nations Secretary General of the progress of the negotiations.

Fourthly: Agreements arrived at by the negotiating parties shall eventually be registered at the United Nations.

Fifthly: A Jordanian shall head the joint Jordanian/Palestinian Delegation, but the Jordanians shall negotiate the Jordanian dimension, while the Palestinians shall discuss the Palestinian dimension. The joint Delegation will afford both Jordan and the Palestinians an opportunity to take the lead in addressing central issues of concern to them in the bilateral negotiations.

Sixthly: The Conference will provide all parties including Jordan and the Palestinians with an opportunity to make a full statement of their views.

Seventhly: Any party at the Conference has the right to raise any issue or subject it deems desirable and no other party shall have the right to object to any person attending or to anything said. Accordingly, any Arab or Palestinian position can be made known with all force and clarity without the slightest reservation.

Eighthly: The Palestinian dimension shall be the only one discussed in two phases: the first is that of the terms of the transitional period; the second is that of agreement over the final status. There is a link between the two stages, represented by the commencement of negotiations on the second phase at the beginning of the third year of the implementation of the first phase. Final status negotiations shall include the subject of Arab Jerusalem to which the provisions of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 apply, in the same way the said provisions apply to the occupied West Bank.

Ninthly: A core principle is that the terms of reference agreed upon for the first stage of negotiations will not prejudice or prejudge the way issues are resolved in later stages.

Tenthly: United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, as understood by the United States of America and the Soviet Union, and indeed the world, is applicable to all the Arab territories occupied in the war of 1967, including Arab Jerusalem. Resolution 242, as understood by those parties, is based on the principle of land for peace, and on the termination of the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. The final status of Jerusalem, as far as the American position is concerned, will be determined by negotiations providing that Jerusalem will not be divided as it had been prior to the 1967 war.

Eleventhly: The United States of America assured Jordan that it shall do its utmost that negotiations pertaining to the transitional period will be concluded in one year. This means that it is not improbable for us to witness, within one year from the commencement of negotiations, the beginning of the termination of Israeli occupation, thus enabling our Palestinian brethren in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to take up their responsibilities of self-government.

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'Genuine nationalism begins with full appreciation of conditions of state'

These are the principal features of the proposed Peace Conference. As it may be noticed, those features can contain basic general principles such as adherence to the formula of land for peace, the application of Resolution 242 to all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. These features also include details, particularly those concerning Palestinian participation.

As I mentioned, we welcomed this initiative from the beginning because it is based on international legitimacy. I received the Secretary of State James Baker on every visit to Jordan. I contacted President Bush directly a few times. In every communication I conveyed to President Bush and his Secretary of State our position regarding the components of the initiative and our support for the peace, to be realized through acceptable negotiations and based on conventionally accepted international principles. As you know, all the concerned Arab parties agreed to participate in the proposed Peace Conference including the PLO.

In this respect, we welcome the decision taken by the 20th session of the Palestinian National Council regarding the Peace Conference.

It was indeed a positive and responsible decision which embodied the degree of competence of our brethren, the representatives of the Palestinian people, in respect to their democratic practice, their deep appreciation and commitment to their cause and their people who placed their trust in them. This has earned them the appreciation of many around the world. For they have reaffirmed their credibility by opening the doors for efforts to reach a just peace and to resolve their problem through peaceful means.

Brothers and sisters,

We are at a crossroad made by national and global

realities which touch every Jordanian here and every Palestinian in the occupied territories and in the diaspora.

These realities effect our present and future and have a bearing on our national life and how to deal with the challenges beginning with unemployment and leading to our national identity and our national security. These realities demand the historic decision of participating in the Peace Conference. This Conference, if it succeeds, will enable us to transform these realities into positive forces that will take us from despair to hope, from confrontation and four decades of suffering, anxiety and pain that accompanied it, and which left an imprint on our lives, to peace and its promise of security, stability, opportunities and prosperity for all, from the no-war no-peace situation and the continuation of the status quo with its real dangers, to a condition of certainty and ease which will enhance the creativity and hopes of the younger generation.

Consequently, we in Jordan, while being fully aware of the real situation and the global and regional realities, and in light of the great sufferings of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the oppressive policies that they have been subjected to, as well as the threat to their presence and existence on their soil as a result of immigration and settlements, and because of the direct effects this will have on Jordan, will therefore participate in the Peace Conference. We will participate in order to protect ourselves and to safeguard our country and our people, to enable us to lead a normal life, and in order to halt the depletion of our resources and energies. This will allow us to maintain support for the struggling Palestinian people who have endured more than what can be described.

In short, this is our decision which we make for the sake of a just peace which will renew hope in our-

selves and put an end to the status quo which, if it is maintained, will continue to gnaw at us bit by bit until it is too late.

Let us awake and put an end to self-destruction in our minds and our beings. Let us put an end to the sweeping tendencies of outbidding each other and to illusions. Let us heed God, for our nation, our children, our present and our future. Let us shoulder our responsibilities and not seek escapism under the guise of leaving it to future generations. Let us remember that the majority of Jordanians and Palestinians cannot afford the luxury of betting on the unknown.

Let me disclose this to you. As you know, I am on the threshold of my autumn years of shouldering responsibility. I am now in the fortieth year on the throne and in the thirty-ninth year since I assumed my constitutional powers. Recently, a question has been weighing heavily on me: should I give in to the call within me to rest, which I badly need, or should I continue to maintain the trust you have placed with me? I contemplated the question and thought of the difficult period our country is going through. I concluded that to think of doing so now is no more than an escape from duty. I then decided to continue to shoulder my responsibilities in spite of the hardships involved in the hope that, with God's help, we will pass through this difficult phase into a better one for you, my brothers and sisters, sons and daughters. I praise God, whom I fear none but Him. I thank Him who has guided me to be amongst those who only seek His satisfaction, serving their nations and living with a clear conscience, so that the judgement of future generations will be for them not against them.

Depending on God and His guidance, we beseech the Almighty to help us to shoulder this historic responsibility through which we seek His satisfaction and the well-being of our people and nation.

King announces decision

(Continued from page 1)

ties and their ramifications, to predict possible consequences and to seek a consensus amongst us."

"This should unite us towards a common and meaningful objective, for what is at stake is the destiny of our country and the future of our nation," the King said.

The King, who postponed Saturday's conference from Thursday last week because of influenza, said his decision to address the national congress of public representatives rather than political parties was prompted by the delay in the full implementation of the National Charter's directives, including the formation of political parties and national elections based on political pluralism.

"Were it not for those events which took us by surprise, we would have carried out our national agenda as scheduled and there would have been no need for this meeting to bring, through you, our people about an issue that will constitute, as I expect, a watershed between uncertainty and clarity of vision, between evading responsibility and shouldering it, and between burying one's head in the sand and standing up to reality by confronting challenges with courage, determination and faith," the King said.

The King analysed the argument for Jordan's participation in the proposed peace conference and called on citizens had politicians to extend their support to the Jordanian delegation and team and confront the elements of negativism, illusion and frustrations.

"I hereby announce that I personally, bound by the sense of duty incumbent upon me toward all of you, will employ all my energy to support our delegation in its noble national task," King Hussein said in his one-hour address to over 2,000 politicians and public personalities gathered at the Palace of Culture.

"We have consistently reaffirmed in every political statement we made our adherence to a just and comprehensive peace and the need to implement United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for any peaceful settlement of

conflict," the King added.

The King disclosed some of the details that had been discussed with the United States, which has been trying since March to convene Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The King said there was seriousness on the part of the administration of President George Bush in its efforts for peace in the Middle East. The King referred to Bush's speech to the U.S. Congress in March in which he underlined the implementation of U.N. resolutions as the basis for peace in the Middle East and the subsequent American moves spearheaded by Secretary of State James Baker who has visited the region seven times since March.

The King also referred to the role of the media and said:

"There is no need for a media which repeats verbatim statements by the enemies of peace designed to provoke, distract and instill despair in the viability of the efforts to achieve peace. What is required is a media which upholds the interests of the people and state, not a media interested in exploiting the feelings of despair and fear and enmity between the two sides."

The Palestinian dimension shall be discussed on two phases. "The first is that of the terms of the transitional period; the second is that of agreement over the final status," the King said. "There is a link between the two stages, represented by the conclusion of negotiations or the selected phase of the beginning of the third year of the implementation of the final year. Final status negotiations shall include the subject of Arab Jerusalem to which the provisions of ... Resolution 242 apply, in the same way the same provisions apply to the occupied West Bank."

The United States of America assured Jordan that it shall do its utmost that negotiations pertaining to the transitional period will be concluded in one year," the King said.

"This means that it is not improbable for us to witness, within one year from the commencement of negotiations, the beginning of the normalization of Israeli occupation," he said.

The terms of reference agreed upon for the first stage of negotiations will not prejudice or preclude the way issues are resolved later stages."

The King reaffirmed Jordan's offer of a joint delegation with the PLO so that a key mandate could be issued in the path toward the peace conference. But he reiterated that the Palestinian dimension of the Arab-Israeli conflict will be exclusively dealt with by the Palestinian component of the joint delegation, which will be headed by a Jordanian.

Regional issues of common interest—water and environment, and elimination of weapons of mass des-

tribution and social and economic development programmes etc.—will be discussed by an Arab-Israeli committee in which the Arab parties directly involved in the conflict as well as the Gulf states will take part.

The conference will convene on the basis of resolutions 242 and 338 and negotiations will also be based on the two key U.N. documents and agreements achieved at the conference will be eventually registered at the world body.

All parties involved will have an opportunity to present its full views to the conference and has the right to raise to any issue or subject it seems fit without any other party raising any objection.

The Palestinian dimension shall be discussed on two phases. "The first is that of the terms of the transitional period; the second is that of agreement over the final status," the King said. "There is a link between the two stages, represented by the conclusion of negotiations or the selected phase of the beginning of the third year of the implementation of the final year. Final status negotiations shall include the subject of Arab Jerusalem to which the provisions of ... Resolution 242 apply, in the same way the same provisions apply to the occupied West Bank."

The King underlined the great changes taking place as the leader of the Jordanian family and revealed that he recently concluded giving up his son, describing himself as on the threshold of his "eternal year."

The King said that the question of whether to continue had weighed heavily upon him.

"I considered the question and thought of the difficult period our country is going through. I concluded that to do nothing now is no more than an escape from duty," King Hussein said.

The King pointed to Jordan's difficult financial, economic, and social conditions describing it as a country "under siege."

"Jordan is a country practically under siege; Jordan has limited resources; Jordan has one of the highest population growth rate; in short, Jordan has both unemployment and hunger," the King said.

He cited a verse from the Koran clearly defining for any caretaker his responsibilities towards his followers as within two categories: providing them with food against hunger and security against fear of danger.

"Certainly the contemporary interpretation of preventing hunger cannot mean the opening of poor houses

or the distribution of free meals," the King pointed out.

"It means the creation of job opportunities through utilising the state's resources, and training its citizens to participate in developing all sectors of society," he explained.

"As far as securing them against fear of danger is concerned," the King continued, "it also has many definitions."

"This is the leadership's foremost responsibility. In all honesty, I tell you that it has become increasingly difficult to shoulder these responsibilities under the current conditions," the King said.

"Our participation in the peace conference is not, therefore, aimed at achieving peace in its narrow sense of any price. We will participate out of a sense of duty to ensure, in the first place, security and prosperity for our people, and out of our determina-

tion to adhere to international legitimacy," King Hussein said.

"Let us awoke and put an end to self-destruction in our minds and our beings," the King said. "Let us put an end to the sweeping tendencies of outbidding each other and to illusions. Let us heed God, for our nation, our children, our present and our future. Let us shoulder our responsibilities and not seek escapism under the guise of leaving it to future generations. Let us remember that the majority of Jordanians and Palestinians cannot afford the luxury of betting on the unknown."

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"Our participation in the peace conference is not, therefore, aimed at achieving peace in its narrow sense of any price. We will participate out of a sense of duty to ensure, in the first place, security and prosperity for our people, and out of our determina-

Turkey sends troops into Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

bomb." Mr. Janger's wife and son were also burned.

Another victim, Obeid Ali, quoted one of the newspaper's correspondents in the north as saying that napalm bombs had been used against farmers and shepherds.

"He indicated that he witnessed the large-scale evacuation of casualties in the targeted area to Zakhro hospital. Witnesses have been cited as saying that a number of schools, public installations, and health centres were hit in the raid," the agency reported.

Serchil Kazaz, the representative for Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said in Ankara that at least eight Iraqi Kurdish civilians were taken to Zakhro hospital with burns after the air raid.

The congress grouped more than 2,500 representatives of the various political factions, except the Muslim Brotherhood.

Brotherhood officials said they boycotted the meeting in adherence to the group's opposition to any peace negotiations with Israel.

"Our participation in the peace conference is not, therefore, aimed at achieving peace in its narrow sense of any price. We will participate out of a sense of duty to ensure, in the first place, security and prosperity for our people, and out of our determina-

PLQ awaiting U.S. assurances

(Continued from page 1)

On Friday, he played down Syria's reluctance to hold talks with Israel on some issues.

Syria's stand "is not something that would prohibit or ban a peace conference or bilateral discussion between Israel and her Arab neighbours about peace."

When Mr. Baker gets to Syria he may take up with President Hafez Al Assad whether he was willing to attend the phase of the peace conference that would deal with such issues as weapons proliferation in the Middle East and scarcity of water.

Mr. Assad told Mr. Baker Sept. 20 that he doubted Syria should participate in negotiations with Israel on those issues while in a state of war with Israel, the officials said Thursday night.

Mr. Baker acknowledged "they have some reservations about the timing of multilateral negotiations." But, he said, "I haven't heard they don't want to participate under any circumstances."

JOB VACANCY

The Royal Embassy of Belgium in Amman is seeking to employ an administrative officer.

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Sports

Edberg, Rostagno reach Tokyo final

TOKYO (R) — Defending champion Ivan Lendl's erratic season hit a new Saturday when he lost in straight sets to American Derrick Rostagno in the semifinals of the million-dollar Tokyo Super Indoor Tournament.

But world number one Stefan Edberg overcame Yugoslavia's Goran Ivanisevic 4-6 7-6 7-5 to reach the final.

The Swede, winner of the U.S. Open and Australian Indoor tournaments, has not lost in 16 matches.

Rostagno, ranked 22nd in the world, needed a first set tiebreak to beat former world number one Lendl for the second time this

season. The seventh seed won 7-6 6-2.

He last beat Lendl, the third seed in Japan, 7-6 3-6 6-3 in the ATP Championship in Cincinnati in August.

"He hit three aces to go 4-2 and then shot some incredible returns on my first serve in the next game," said Lendl.

"He did everything well today. He served well, he was mixing it up with pace, depth and placement," he said.

Lendl reached the Australian Open final at the start of the season, losing to Boris Becker, but failed to win any of the four Grand Slam events for the first time since 1988.

After breaking Lendl's service

in the first game of the second set, Rostagno won the decisive sixth game with three aces to go 4-2 up and then easily won the next two games.

"He hit three aces to go 4-2 and then shot some incredible returns on my first serve in the next game," said Lendl.

"He did everything well today. He served well, he was mixing it up with pace, depth and placement," he said.

Lendl reached the Australian Open final at the start of the season, losing to Boris Becker, but failed to win any of the four Grand Slam events for the first time since 1988.

After breaking Lendl's service



Gabriela Sabatini

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Sainz must stay on the road

SAN REMO, Italy (R) — World champion Carlos Sainz, with the Lancias in hot pursuit of his Toyota, must keep cool at all costs in the San Remo Rally, starting Sunday. The Spaniard leads Finland's Juhu Kankkunen by just two points in the World Drivers' Standings with three rounds remaining but has overtaken his Toyota Celica in the last two events. He also rolled his car in last year's San Remo Rally. Victory in Lancia's backyard would set Sainz up for the next race in Spain and, with the constructors' title seemingly destined to stay with the Italians for a record fifth successive year, would give the Japanese some small consolation. Kankkunen is no fan of the 2,186-km event, with its tricky blend of asphalt roads and billy gravel tracks. "San Remo does not suit my abilities but the win in Australia has given me a big boost," said the Finn, whose triumph in Perth last month gave him renewed hope of the title. Sainz rolled his Toyota Celica out of both the 1,000 Lakes Rally in Finland in August and the Australian Rally. Kankkunen finished second in San Remo last year, behind his French team mate Didier Auriol. Sainz, who rolled his Toyota on the grave tracks in Tuscany while leading, came third.

Pallister pulls out of England squad

LONDON (R) — Manchester United central defender Gary Pallister and Sheffield Wednesday striker David Hirst Friday withdrew from England's squad for next week's European Championship qualifier against Turkey. Pallister's failure to recover from a groin injury increased Tottenham captain Gary Mabbutt's chances of starting an international for the first time for four years. Mabbutt, Oldham defenders Eamonn Barrett and Richard Jobson and Manchester City goalkeeper Tony Cottee were added to the England squad by manager Graham Taylor Thursday as cover in case of injuries. Hirst has an injured ankle.

Boban looks set for Bari

ROME (R) — Yugoslav prospect Zvonimir Boban, with AC Milan, could join struggling Italian first division club Bari for the rest of the season. AC Milan director Armando Braga said Friday there was a strong possibility that Boban would join Bari next month. He said the move depended on Bari suspending the contract of their Brazilian winger Joao Paulo, who is out for the rest of the season after breaking his leg. Boban would return to Milan next year when Italian clubs are expected to be allowed to have more than three foreign players on their books. Braga said. Boban, signed by Milan from Dinamo Zagreb in the close season, has been kept out of the first team this season by Dutch trio Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard.

GOREN BRIDGE

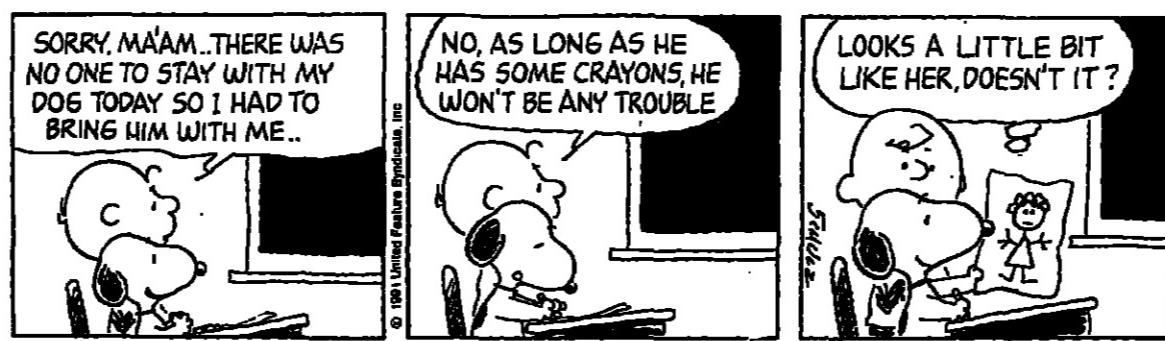
WITH OMAR SHARIF
8 TANNEN HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦AKQ64 ♦K1095 ♦83 ♦66
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A64 ♦873 ♦Q72 ♦K52
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A3984 ♦73 ♦K52 ♦Q72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦7 ♦Q63 ♦OK8 ♦KQJ764
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AJ1096 ♦AK754 ♦85 ♦10
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
Q.6—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦6 ♦AQJ9652 ♦Q963 ♦46
What is your opening bid?

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

10th inning homer gives Minnesota 2-1 lead in American League playoffs

TORONTO (AP) — Mike Pagliarulo beat the Blue Jays and their bullpen with one swing of the bat.

Pagliarulo hit a pinch-home run with one out in the 10th inning Friday night to give Minnesota a 3-2 victory over Toronto and 2-1 lead in the American League playoffs. The homer off Mike Timlin also broke a streak of 12 consecutive scoreless innings by Blue Jays relievers.

Game 4 of the best-of-7 series will be played Saturday when Jack Morris, the winner of the first game, faces Todd Stottlemyre. Of the seven previous AL playoffs tied 1-1, the team winning Game 3 went on to win the series five times.

Toronto got a good performance from its bullpen, but the Twins were even better. David West, who slumped in the second half, pitched 2 2/3 shutout innings, allowing one hit, and series surprise Carl Willis worked two scoreless innings, giving up one hit.

Pagliarulo was batting for rookie Scott Leius, who was 0-for-3. It was the sixth pinch homer in playoff history, and the third in the AL. The last in the AL was by Kansas City's Pat Sheridan in 1985, also against the Blue Jays.

The Blue Jays kept a late-arriving Skydome crowd of 51,454 on their feet in the first inning when Joe Carter hit Scott Erickson's 3-2 pitch 451 feet to center field with two outs. Candy Maldonado made it 2-0 with an RBI double later in the inning.

Toronto, however, could have had much,

much more. In the first seven innings, the Blue Jays were 1-for-8 with runners in scoring position.

Erickson (20-8) staggered through foul-plus innings, allowing three hits and walking five, the latter at season high. He walked the first two batters in the fourth with no damage and the Blue Jays wasted two walks and two David West wild pitches in the fifth.

Minnesota scored a run in the fifth when Shane Mack tripped to right field leading off and beat second baseman Roberto Alomar's ill-advised throw home on Kent Hrbek's slow grounder. On Mack's triple, Carter got his foot stuck on the plastic wall and appeared to sprain his ankle. Carter left in the seventh for a pinch runner.

Rookie Chuck Knoblauch, 6-for-10 in the series, doubled with one out in the sixth and scored on Kirby Puckett's single to right. Carter's strong throw home was cut off by first baseman John Olerud, whose relay home was too late to get sliding Knoblauch.

After a walk to Olerud and a single by Kelly Gruber in the first, Maldonado snapped an 0-for-15 playoff slump with a run-scoring double. Erickson, only 8-5 in the second half, got out of the inning when Rance Mullinkis flied deep to center field.

Key, who went 10 days between starts, retired the first 11 batters before Puckett doubled in the fourth. The Toronto left-hander gave up two runs on five hits in six innings.

Pirates face Tomahawk mania as N.L. playoffs move to Atlanta

ATLANTA (AP) — The Pittsburgh Pirates will have to deal with the National League's hottest pitcher and some of its most enthusiastic fans in this afternoon's third game of the National League playoffs.

The teams split the first two games in Pittsburgh. Now the Pirates will be faced with more than 50,000 screaming Atlanta fans doing the Tomahawk Chop and banging tom-toms in support of their worst-to-first bunch.

"I think our fans are the 10th player on the field for us," Braves Manager Bobby Cox said. "They certainly give our players a lift."

"There will be a lot of energy in that ball park. It will be electric."

More importantly, perhaps, the Pirates will be facing John Smoltz, whose 14-13 record includes a 12-2 mark after the All-Star break. The Pirates will go with their biggest winner, John Smiley (20-8).

The Pirates lost the regular-season series to Atlanta 9-3 and were 0-6 in Atlanta — and that was before the Tomahawk Chop man began. The two teams last met

in Atlanta on July 31. "We know it's going to be whoop-whoop. You know, that thing they do," the Pirates' Bobby Bonilla said. "We're ready for it, we think."

"I don't think they know the proportion to what it will be," Braves catcher Greg Olson said. "It'll be different for us being in a situation like this. They'll be coming at us like it was Custer's last stand," Pittsburgh's Andy Van Slyke said.

"We have the advantage now," Braves left fielder Lannie Smith said.

"I'm more concerned about the Braves' lineup than I am their fans," said Smiley, who was 8-1 in day games this year.

"Once you get on the field, you don't see any of that stuff," said Pirates catcher Mike Lavalliere, a left-handed hitter who will be making his first start of the series with Smoltz, a right-hander, on the mound.

"The concentration takes over. If you're starting to notice those things, you're not concentration. You're in trouble," Lavalliere said.

Cox, however, is not concerned by the lack of offense. "If we're facing mediocre pitching, I'd be concerned," he said. "But Drabek and Zane Smith are not mediocre. I would like to see more offense, but it will come."

Pitching dominated the first two games. The Braves scored only two runs and had 13 hits, a .190 batting average. But they got the split because of Steve Avery, who stopped the Pirates 1-0 on Thursday night, outdueling ex-Brave Zane Smith. Avery allowed six hits in 8 1-3 innings before Alejandro Pena got the final two outs for the save.

The Pirates won the opener 5-1 as Doug Brabek shut down the Braves on three hits in six innings and Bob Walk pitched the final three innings, allowing only a homer to David Justice in the ninth.

The issue of compensation for Liverpool appeared to be a major stumbling block.

Drabek left the club only six months into a five-year contract with an agreement that he would not join one of their competitors.

Mid-table Rovers, bankrolled by millionaire backer Jack Walker, have been pursuing Drabek for several weeks after sacking former manager Don Mackay just three games into the season.

The issue of compensation for Liverpool appeared to be a major stumbling block.

Drabek left the club only six months into a five-year contract with an agreement that he would not join one of their competitors.

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1991

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: One of those Sundays when it is best that you live strictly according to the highest principles and precepts which you believe and to live the Golden Rule in all of your associations.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a great day for you to thoroughly enjoy yourself so get together with those whom you have any sort of affection and have a happy time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) See if you can't add some charm or attractive articles to your own home so it glistens and glows with more value and distinction than before this.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is that time for you to make a point to get out and to see those close business companions with whom you need more discussions with.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You now find that whatever has been of utmost importance to you in career matters can be so put into a streamlined fashion that it's easier in future.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are able to find the new means by which to gain the good will of wise and purposeful individuals with whom you would like to be connected.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make headway now in getting all of those responsibilities in back of you and also make sure that you do listen to that inner voice.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is your moment to make sure you do get in touch with those compatible friends who like you and with whom you have a rapport bringing and you them benefits.

FISHER: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you would like to do that does necessitate some private backing from one who knows his business backwards and forwards is very good for you now.

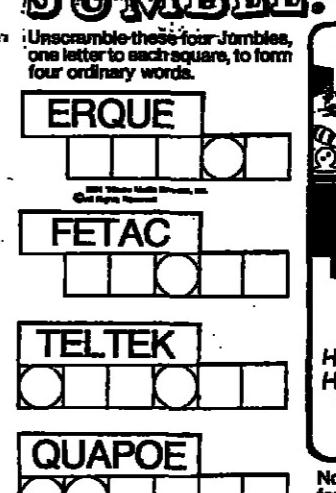
THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLING WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: IN HIS [circled letters]

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: WIPED HENNA ACTUAL GAMBLE

Answer: What that smart-sacky dog was — A "GNAW-T-ALL"

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|------|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | </td | | | | | | | | |

| Financial Markets | | Jordanian | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|--------|-------|
| in co-operation with | | Cairo Amman Bank | | | |
| U.S. Dollar in International Markets | | | | | |
| Currency | New York Close Date 10/10/91 | New York Close Date 11/10/91 | | | |
| Sterling Pound* | 1.7153 | 1.7235 | | | |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.0952 | 1.0885 | | | |
| Swiss Franc | 1.4830 | 1.4745 | | | |
| French Franc | 5.7760 | 5.7540 | | | |
| Japanese Yen | 130.35 | 129.35 | | | |
| European Currency Unit | 1.2117* | 1.2124 | | | |
| * USD Per STG | | | | | |
| ** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT | | | | | |
| Bancurrency Interest Rates Date: 12/10/91 | | | | | |
| Currency | 1 MONTH | 3 MONTHS | 6 MONTHS | | |
| U.S. Dollar | 5.12 | 5.31 | 5.31 | | |
| Sterling Pound | 10.43 | 10.25 | 10.18 | | |
| Deutsche Mark | 9.12 | 9.25 | 9.37 | | |
| Swiss Franc | 8.00 | 8.18 | 8.06 | | |
| French Franc | 9.12 | 9.18 | 9.25 | | |
| Japanese Yen | 6.81 | 6.50 | 6.21 | | |
| European Currency Unit | 9.75 | 9.87 | 9.87 | | |
| Interest rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent. | | | | | |
| Precious Metals Date: 12/10/91 | | | | | |
| Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm* | Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm |
| Gold | 359.65 | 7.00 | Silver | 4.13 | .095 |
| * 24 Karat | | | | | |
| Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 12/10/91 | | | | | |
| Currency | Bid | Offer | | | |
| U.S. Dollar | .6860 | .6880 | | | |
| Sterling Pound | 1.1808 | 1.1867 | | | |
| Deutsche Mark | .4058 | .4078 | | | |
| Swiss Franc | .4637 | .4660 | | | |
| French Franc | .1191 | .1197 | | | |
| Japanese Yen* | .5290 | .5316 | | | |
| Dutch Guilder | .3602 | .3620 | | | |
| Swedish Krona | .1111 | .1117 | | | |
| Italian Lira* | .0542 | .0545 | | | |
| Belgian Franc | .01970 | .01980 | | | |
| * Per 100 | | | | | |
| Other Currencies Date: 12/10/91 | | | | | |
| Currency | Bid | Offer | | | |
| Bahraini Dinar | 1.7920 | 1.8000 | | | |
| Lebanese Lira* | .0770 | .0776 | | | |
| Saudi Riyal | .7825 | .7832 | | | |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | — | — | | | |
| Qatari Riyal | .7851 | .7855 | | | |
| Egyptian Pound | .2090 | .2190 | | | |
| Omani Riyal | 1.7580 | 1.7780 | | | |
| UAE Dirham | .7851 | .7855 | | | |
| Greek Drachma* | .3600 | .3675 | | | |
| Cypriot Pound | 1.4750 | 1.4700 | | | |
| * Bahrain, Lebanon, Oman, Cyprus and Greece. | | | | | |
| CAB Indicators for Amman Financial Markets* | | | | | |
| Index | 8/10/91 | Close | 9/10/91 | Close | |
| All-Share | 121.20 | 122.01 | | | |
| Banking Sector | 102.34 | 103.10 | | | |
| Insurance Sector | 122.47 | 123.10 | | | |
| Industry Sector | 150.01 | 150.41 | | | |
| Services Sector | 123.41 | 123.10 | | | |
| * December 31, 1990 = 100 | | | | | |

British inflation drops

LONDON (R) — British year-on-year inflation dropped last month to 4.1 per cent, falling below the European Community average for the first time in five years, the government said Friday.

The Central Statistical Office said the September headline rate of inflation, as measured by the retail price index, fell to 4.1 per cent, the lowest in Britain in 3½ years, from 4.7 in August and nearly 11 per cent a year ago.

Economists had looked for a slightly lower September figure, but treasury chief secretary David Mellor called Friday's figures "most encouraging" and said Britain was on course to get below four per cent by the end of the year.

"We are back below the European Community (EC) average for inflation for the first time for five years," he said. There is no reason why the economy should not move ahead."

Italians do not rate tax evasion as much of a sin

ROME (R) — Italians asked in a poll what was sinful feared blasphemy might put them on the road to hell but said tax evasion on earth was not much to worry about.

According to the poll by the ISPES social and political studies organisation, 85 per cent of those asked said violence was the worst sin, followed by blasphemy (59.9 per cent) and drug addiction and slander (58.7 per cent each).

But 40.2 per cent believed tax evasion was not a sin at all and 29.7 per cent thought it was only a minor thing.

The results should come as no surprise to the government. Last July, the finance ministry released a list of tax dodgers who had cheated the state out of \$25 billion, enough to pay off a quarter of the budget deficit.

On other moral issues, the poll found that most Italians were not overly concerned about premarital sex. More than 40 per cent believed it was not a sin at all and 28.8 per cent said it was only a minor sin.

Bush vetoes bill to extend unemployment benefits

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush vetoed Friday a \$6.4 billion bill that would have provided up to 20 additional weeks of unemployment benefits, calling it a "poorly designed, unnecessarily expensive programme."

He said in a letter to the Senate that the bill "violates essential elements" of the budget agreement that lawmakers and the White House agreed to last year because it does not include offsetting cutbacks to make up for the \$6.4 billion price tag.

"I would gladly sign into law responsible legislation that does not threaten the economic recovery and its associated job creation," Mr. Bush said, repaying his call for an alternative, less costly unemployment package.

The administration has conceded that the bill passed by congress is unnecessary because the recession is over, even though Mr. Bush in recent days has expressed new concerns about the pace of the recovery.

Trying to deflect Democratic attacks that he is insensitive to the jobs, Mr. Bush said his administration "is deeply concerned about the needs of the unemployed and their families. It is essential that we take responsible actions to ensure that the economic recovery continues and strengthens, creating new employment opportunities."

However, he said, the bill he vetoed, "would effectively destroy the integrity of the bipartisan budget agreement and put into place a poorly designed, unnecessarily expensive programme that would significantly increase the federal deficit."

Spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Mr. Bush invited the congressional leaders of the White House to discuss prospects of getting a less-expensive measure through Congress.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole has proposed a bill that would extend unemployment benefits for up to 10 weeks at a cost of about \$4 billion. In the past,

the statement was a clear sub-

to IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus who has repeatedly called for cuts in military spending both by industrial and developing nations.

Mr. Camdessus said Thursday

that if big military spenders

brought their arms spending

down to the world average of 4.5

per cent of gross domestic product "the savings... would be of

the order of magnitude of \$140

billion."

The G-24 promotes the in-

terests of the developing world in

its relations with the fund and the

World Bank.

A statement approved by fi-

nance ministers of the Group of

24 (G-24) developing nations told

the IMF and World Bank not to

get involved "in issues beyond

their strict economic and financial

mandate."

The G-24 promotes the in-

terests of the developing world in

its relations with the fund and the

World Bank.

The G-24 statement appears to

represent an about-turn from an

earlier draft that embraced Mr.

Camdessus's own views.

"A strong commitment is re-

quired by all governments to

rationalise military expenditures

to reflect the reality of their

internal security situation," the

earlier draft said.

It added that reduced military

spending would enable countries

"to stabilise in a sustainable

manner both the fiscal and external

balances of their economies."

Latin America and sub-

Saharan Africa are the only two

developing regions that spend

less on armaments than the world

average. At the other extreme,

Middle Eastern nations spend

more than 10 per cent of econo-

mic output on military hardware.

However, even some major

industrial nations, including the

United States, are believed to be

sceptical of Mr. Camdessus's in-

creasingly vocal stand against

high military spending on the

grounds that he is exceeding the

IMF's mandate.

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mic output on military hardware.

However, even some major

industrial nations, including the

United States, are believed to be

sceptical of Mr. Camdessus's in-

creasingly vocal stand against

high military spending on the

<p

Yugoslav army begins to leave Zagreb barracks

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (R) — The Yugoslav federal army Saturday began its evacuation of the Borongaj Barracks in Zagreb, which have been blockaded by Croatian forces for almost a month.

A column of military vehicles, escorted by European Community ceasefire monitors, Croatian National Guardsmen and police began leaving the barracks at 1.55 p.m. (1235 GMT).

Reporters counted about 250 vehicles in the column, which left the barracks in a deal which also provided for a relief convoy to be allowed into the besieged eastern Croatian town of Vukovar.

Truck drivers ready to go it alone and brave fierce fighting Saturday to bring much-needed food and medical supplies to the embattled eastern Croatian town of Vukovar.

European Community (EC) and Red Cross officials judged it too dangerous as Vukovar and nearby towns were engulfed yet again in fierce battles.

They decided to return to Zagreb and abandon the second attempt to get the 50-vehicle convoy into Vukovar. The convoy first retreated under fire Friday.

Not long after Saturday's abortive attempt, the Yugoslav Federal Army and Croatian forces agreed in Zagreb that the convoy would be allowed through to Vukovar, a city under constant siege for seven weeks.

"Soon... the convoy will be starting again from Vinkovci to Vukovar," the spokesman for the EC ceasefire monitors, Simon Smits, said in Zagreb.

Before news of the agreement reached Nustar, local Croatian National Guardsmen began gathering near Vukovar for a possible attempt to breach the front and evacuate wounded people.

Drivers, sitting by their halted trucks at the side of the road, said they were prepared to stick out.

"This convoy will go to help the people in Vukovar. Something is being prepared," said a guard officer.

A build-up of Croatian forces began in Vinkovci, 20 kilometres west of Vukovar.

Fighters, including special black-shirted commandos, gathered and National Guard armoured vehicles and jeeps arrived, including one with anti-tank missiles.

"We are definitely going to break through if reinforcements come," one guardsman said. "There is no other way. We have to break through."

In the devastated village of Nustar, one kilometre from the Serbian guerrillas' line, tired Croatian fighters were tight-lipped. There were new attacks on Nustar Saturday and one house was still smoking.

When word of the agreement to allow the convoy through reached Nustar, people relaxed and awaited development.

Nustar, in normal times a village of 3,000 people but now in the centre of one of the main Croatian battlefields, endures daily shelling. Every house is damaged. Most are destroyed.

It is a ghost town. Pigs, chickens, and dogs roam freely in streets which are full of craters from artillery attacks.

But there is evidence of Croatian forces' success against the army. Severely crippled tanks are dotted around the village, including one which is totally destroyed.

A Reuter reporter in Nustar said an artillery duel was under



way with howitzers and multiple rocket launchers around Vukovar.

Croatian Radio also reported fighting in the central Croatian towns of Pakrac and Karlovac and said the army had taken the Croatian stronghold of Lipik near

Pakrac.

The radio said thousands of people had fled Karlovac and Borovo Naselje and Osijek in northern Croatia came under heavy artillery fire. It said five people were killed Friday in Osijek.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Sikhs release picture of Romanian diplomat

NEW DELHI (R) — Sikh militants delivered a picture of kidnapped Romanian diplomat Liviu Radu to an Indian news agency office Saturday, offering the first proof that they held him.

The United News of India said the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) delivered a packet to its New Delhi office containing a two-page statement and a colour picture of Mr. Radu flanked by two Sikhs holding AK-47 rifles. The picture was the first proof since Mr. Radu was abducted Wednesday morning that militants fighting for a Sikh homeland in the northern state of Punjab had kidnapped him. The news agency said the statement accompanying the photograph was written in Punjabi script. It gave no immediate indication of whether it contained demands.

Ruling Cuban party approves reforms

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's ruling Communist Party Friday approved internal reforms aimed at widening the party's influence and representative role among the island's more than 10 million people. Changes to the party statutes approved by delegates on the second day of a policy-making party congress in eastern Cuba included the lifting of a membership ban against Christians and other religious believers. The congress in Santiago de Cuba, 1,000 kilometres south-east of Havana, also moved to slash the bloated party bureaucracy by eliminating with immediate effect the influential secretariat of the Central Committee and the category of substitute members of party bodies. "We have to save our nation, the revolution and socialism and we will do this not only with Communists but with all those who are capable of loving their country," Cuban President Fidel Castro, who is the party's first secretary, told the congress. Ruling out any shift to multi-party politics, the revised statutes defined the Cuban Communist Party as the "single party of the Cuban nation, Marxist-Leninist and 'Martiano'" (from 19th century Cuban independence hero Jose Marti). They called for realism and creativity from its members and for "the widest internal democracy to ensure full freedom of discussion and opinion."

150 more Belgian troops pull out of Zaire

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium said Saturday it would withdraw some 150 paratroopers from Zaire where they protected foreign nationals after rioting last month. Defence Minister Guy Coeme took the decision in line with France which announced Friday it would withdraw some of its remaining troops, a ministry spokeswoman said. This leaves some 700 Belgian soldiers in Zaire, most of them in Kinshasa. Some 150 French soldiers also remain in the Zairian capital. The spokeswoman said the remaining Belgian troops would continue to protect the evacuation of Belgian nationals and that they played a "dissuasive role" in preventing the outbreak of new trouble. Belgium already withdrew 155 troops last Monday and Tuesday.

Poland, Italy sign friendship treaty

WARSAW (AP) — Poland and Italy Friday signed a landmark treaty of friendship and cooperation, the Polish News Agency (PAP) said. The 23-point document covers all major fields of bilateral relations and was signed by Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski and his Italian counterpart Gianni De Michelis. The agreement, which also defines the principles of bilateral consultations, cooperation in European disarmament process and military contacts, will be valid for 20 years and will be automatically extended for 5-year periods. Italy also agreed to support Poland's aspirations for membership in the European Community (EC). The two ministers stressed that the treaty also contributed to advancing European integration and regional security.

U.N. assembly condemns Haitian coup

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. General Assembly Friday unanimously condemned the overthrow of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, bolstering an international campaign to reverse the military coup. The United States and the Soviet Union joined in supporting the resolution of the world body which demanded restoration of Haiti's first freely elected president and called for international isolation of its new leaders. The resolution said the world body "strongly condemns the use of violence and military coercion and the decision to replace illegally the constitutional president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide." It did not call for military intervention. Aristide, a Roman Catholic priest and advocate of the poor, was ousted on Sept. 30 in a military coup. He was Haiti's first democratically elected president since the Caribbean nation won its independence from France in 1804.

Pope starts visit to Brazil

NATAL, Brazil (R) — Pope John Paul will find a poorer and sadder Brazil when he touches down Saturday to revisit the world's largest Catholic nation. His 10-day tour will take him through a country where appalling slums can stand almost back to back with million-dollar apartments. Churchmen expect him to urge Brazil to bridge the gulf between rich and poor. The Pope will also have to tackle tough issues closer to home. Brazil's Catholic churches are losing an estimated 600,000 members a year to fast-growing Protestant sects, and commentators note that the excitement which preceded the Pope's first visit 11 years ago seems to have faded. Pope John Paul's itinerary will concentrate on places not visited in 1980. As a result he will not travel to Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo or Manaus, though he will stop again in the capital Brasilia for talks with President Fernando Collor de Mello.

Comedian Redd Foxx dies at age 68

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Comedian Redd Foxx, who played a crabby junkman on the 1970s U.S. TV series *Sanford And Son*, died Friday after suffering heart attack on the set of his new show, a network official said. He was 68. Foxx died Friday evening at Queen of Angels Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Centre, said Jeff Sagansky, president of CBS Entertainment. Foxx was rehearsing a scene for the CBS series *The Royal Family* at a Paramount Studios sound stage when he collapsed. He is best known for his role as a cantankerous Watts junk peddler on *Sanford And Son*. The show lasted from 1972-77. Demond Wilson played his long-suffering son, Lamont. The bow-legged, foul-mouthed comedian was a frequent headliner in Las Vegas before starting work on *The Royal Family*.

Actress Sheila Florance dies at 75

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Actress Sheila Florance died of cancer Saturday, a week after winning Australia's top acting award for her portrayal of a woman dying of cancer. She was 75. "A Woman's Tale" was specially written for Ms. Florance, who had six operations to remove cancerous growths over the past two years. She died in a Melbourne Hospital. Ms. Florance was best known for her role as Lizzie Birdsworth in the Australian television series *Prisoner*. The series also was broadcast in Britain as *Cell Block H*. *A Woman's Tale* was her first major movie role in an acting career spanning more than five decades. Last week, it earned her the Australian Film Institute's Best Actress Award. Personal friend and media personality Roland Rochechouart said Ms. Florance touched many in the entertainment industry because she was "a real Aussie battler." He said they had considered the twice-married Ms. Florance "indestructible."

U.S. crew member returns to Biosphere II

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — A crew member of the Biosphere II environmental laboratory who severed her fingertip returned to the sealed prototype space colony Friday after surgery. Jayne Poyer, the lab's farm manager, was taken to University Medical Center, where her finger was surgically closed after a graft to keep the top half inch of the finger failed. "I feel fine. I'm looking forward to going back into the biosphere," Ms. Poyer said.



Saint Anthony's jaw stolen

PADUA, Italy (R) — The jaw of St. Anthony of Padua has been stolen. His devotees hope to recover the relic by invoking the saint's traditional power to locate lost objects. Millions of Italians were outraged when three men held pilgrims at gunpoint in the basilica of St. Anthony Thursday and snatched the gold-plated silver cup, inlaid with rubies and sapphires, containing the "saint's chin." The basilica was crowded with the faithful Friday as friars sang and chanted to invoke the saint's help in returning one of the Roman Catholic Church's most precious icons. "They've been singing to invoke the saint, in effect, find himself," said local journalist Aldo Comello. Police said the thieves might hold the relic for ransom. "This sacrilegious act touches the heart of Padua in one of the things that they hold most dear. But it also has world-wide repercussions, given the universal devotion of the saint," said Padua's Bishop Antonio Mattiazzo.

Doctors used laser to stop heart attack

MIAMI (AP) — A University of Miami cardiologist has said he stopped a man's heart attack by breaking up a clot using a laser in a first-of-its-kind procedure. But experts treated the report with skepticism. Dr. Eduardo Demarchena said the operation provided evidence that laser technology may be another way to prevent damage from massive heart attacks, especially in patients who can't receive anti-clotting agents, known as Thrombolytics. Carlos Baba, 56, was having an acute heart attack when he arrived at Jackson Memorial Hospital's emergency room Oct. 3. Because he also suffered a recent stroke, anti-clotting drugs might have caused bleeding in his brain. Dr. Demarchena said. Most patients in Baba's condition are treated with balloon angioplasty, a procedure in which a catheter is inserted and the balloon briefly inflated to clear a blood vessel. In Baba's case, a clot blocked the coronary artery. But Dr. Demarchena decided to use the laser instead. "It basically disintegrated the clot, allowing blood flow to go into the coronary artery," Dr. Demarchena said. "We don't know of any other cases of laser angioplasty used in this setting." Dr. Spencer B. King III, director of the Centre For Angioplasty at Emory University in Atlanta, said balloons are quite effective in stopping heart attacks, and that other types of lasers have often been used to open arteries in non-emergency situations.

Mock turtle swoop puts S. Korean in court

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian prosecutors are seeking a 10-month jail term and 10 million rupiah (\$5,078) fine for a South Korean accused of trying to smuggle turtles out of the country. A verdict may be given later this month. Indonesia bans trade in endangered species, including turtles.

Elderly Japanese increasingly turning to crime

TOKYO (R) — Elderly Japanese are increasingly turning to crime because of lack of family support, the Justice Ministry said in an annual report Tuesday. The report said 1,990 people over the age of 60 were serving jail terms at 1,820 a year before. "Many of the elderly committed crimes because they had been alienated from the family," a ministry official said. "Some of them have even tried to re-enter prison purposely because they have no other place to go." The report said the elderly accounted for about five per cent of Japan's prison inmates, compared with between 1.0 and 1.3 per cent in Sweden, France and Britain. Traffic-related offences led the list of crimes committed by the elderly, followed by homicide, forgery and larceny. Total reported crimes for all ages stood at 2.2 million cases in 1990, about 43,000 lower than in 1989. "Japan has a fast-ageing population and we should think more about improving welfare, after looking at the figures," the official said.

Ukraine to create independent army

KIEV, USSR (AP) — Parliament in the Ukraine has approved a plan to create an independent army of 400,000 men in ground, naval and air forces.

Draft laws to be discussed by parliament in the next three weeks would provide the legal foundation for the armed forces, which lawmakers hope would be formed in the second half of the 1990s.

The first Ukrainian Unit to be formed in the coming months will be a National Guard for the republic, initially about 20,000 to 30,000 men, based largely on Ukrainians serving as Soviet interior Ministry troops. They will be armed only with light weapons.

The Ukraine's armed forces will be used exclusively for defence," said Vasili Durdinets, chairman of parliament's Defence Commission. "These laws will show the world the Ukraine's is peace-loving nation."

Meanwhile, Kirzai held his first popular presidential election Saturday, but incumbent Askar Akayev ran unopposed in the Central Asian republic amid complaints he kept opponents off the ballot.

Mr. Akayev, who has staked out an ambitious reform programme, contends it will take many years to fully implement democracy and establish a market economy in the predominantly Muslim region.

Folls opened Saturday morning

letter to Ukrainian military units demanding they remain loyal to the Soviet constitution. Several regiments based in the Ukraine already have said they will switch their allegiance to the Ukrainian parliament, according to the republic's Defence Ministry.

There are between 1 million and 1.5 million Soviet troops in the Ukraine.

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The Khmer Rouge moving refugees back, defying peace accord

BANGKOK (AP) — A United Nations official said Saturday that plans by the Khmer Rouge to force 43,000 refugees into dangerous rebel zones in Cambodia would violate a U.N.-brokered peace accord.

In apparent preparation for moving the refugees at Site 8 Camp out of Thailand, the Marxist Cambodian guerrillas detained the camp's elected civilian leaders, replaced them with military hardliners on Oct. 4, and sent armed soldiers into the camp.

Many of the refugees have appealed to Western relief agencies for protection from the guerrillas, said S.A.M.S. Kibria, the U.N. secretary-general's special representative for Cambodian humanitarian aid programmes.

These reports are extremely disturbing and are of the utmost concern to the U.N.," he said in a statement.

"Any such attempts to move these populations would be in

Blaze causes 2nd Chernobyl reactor shutdown

MOSCOW (AP) — Fire forced the shutdown of a second reactor at Chernobyl, the most serious incident at the nuclear plant since a 1986 inferno spewed radiation across Europe. Inspectors probed the cause Saturday.

The Friday night blaze caused no injuries or radiation release from the No. 2 reactor, which was immediately deactivated, said a recorded statement at the plant, 130 kilometres north of Kiev in the Soviet Ukraine.

Two reactors continued in operation, the Soviet news agency TASS quoted Nikolai Tenberg, head of the Ukrainian Nuclear Power Plants Inspectorate, as saying. The plant's reactor No. 4 was capped after the 1986 fire and explosion, the worst disaster in the history of nuclear power.

The plant had recently been criticised from lax safety measures.

TASS said the fire Friday was caused by an electrical switch and destroyed part of the roof of a turbine room, but it did not elaborate.

The fire broke out at 8:09 p.m. (1809 GMT), the reactor was shut down one minute later and the blaze was put out at 11:30 p.m. (2130 GMT), the plant statement said. Fire crews remained at the scene early Saturday, TASS said.

The Ukrainian government immediately set up as state commission headed by Minister of State Viktor Gladush to investigate the accident, TASS said.

Mr. Tenberg was quoted by TASS as saying, "no one has been injured. The level of radiation is within limits."

A spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, David Kyd, said the Soviets did not immediately report the incident to the IAEA, which would have been necessary if radioactive had escaped.

The state council formed three new services on the basis of the old KGB: An independent Central Intelligence Service, a Republican Counterintelligence Service, and a state committee to guard the country's borders, said an official statement reported on TASS.

Another section of the KGB, foreign intelligence, had already been split from the agency altogether by President Mikhail Gorbachev, who on Sept. 30 named longtime aide Yevgeny Primakov to head the service.

Soviet authorities say 32 people died as a direct result of the explosion April 26, 1986. But Vladimir Chernousenko, the scientific director of the 30-kilometre exclusion zone around the plant, said in April the disaster had claimed up to 10,000 lives. He accused Moscow of covering up the true effects of the accident.

The Soviet government blamed the steam explosion on human error during a "routine shutdown" of the reactor. But many Soviet and Western experts also fault the 1,000-megawatt RBMK reactor's design, which is not permitted in most Western countries.

The Communist Party relied on the secret police to silence opponents, plant disinformation and provide intelligence on its enemies. During Josef Stalin's rule, the secret police were responsible for the deaths of millions of Soviet citizens during the great terror.

TASS reported on Oct. 1 that an immense steel-and-concrete "sarcophagus" built around the No. 4 reactor to block radiation leaks did not meet safety standards and should be reinforced.